Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Palestinian-Israeli Liaison Committee Ends Talks

Peres, Sha'th Summarize Results

NC0805192795 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1620 GMT 8 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 8 May (MENA) — The two-day meeting of the Palestinian-Israeli Liaison Committee concluded this afternoon in Cairo.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, head of the Israeli delegation to the meetings, stated that during the meetings they discussed a number of topics on which agreement was reached.

He said that the Palestinian side complained about the expropriation of land in Jerusalem and they decided to form an unofficial committee to address this issue. The committee, which will meet soon, will include Moshe Shahal, Israeli Minister of Police Affairs; and Faysal al-Husayni, the official responsible for Jerusalem at the Palestinian Authority.

Shim'on Peres believes there are bad feelings between the Palestinians and the Israelis over the Jerusalem issue, resulting from different interpretations by each side.

He said: We informed the Palestinian side that we will try to reach a point where we can implement the second phase of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles between 15 June and 1 July. Regarding the situation in Hebron, many steps have been taken to calm the city.

Peres clarified that Hebron's mayor and the civil affairs official have agreed to meet and that arrangements could be made to restore normality there.

He said that Israel agreed to give the Palestinians jurisdiction over five new sectors in the West Bank, including the labor, securities, energy, banking, and industry sectors. He added that the Palestinians had asked to be given jurisdiction over transportation, and the Israelis have promised to study the matter.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said that during the meetings, they agreed to allow trucks to transit the Rafah crossing. This will be implemented during the next two months. Agreement was reached to intensify negotiations on the secure crossings so that they can operate normally.

He added that agreement was also reached to increase by 5,000 the number of Palestinian workers allowed into Israel. The total number of workers allowed to enter Israel will be 31,000.

He noted that they also agreed to convene a mid-May meeting of the committee tasked with discussing displaced persons. The committee includes Egypt, Jordan, Israel, and the Palestinian Authority. It will meet in Beersheba.

An Egyptian-Palestinian-Israeli committee will be formed to discuss the Rafah crossing and organize its operation. It will also discuss tourism and education.

On his part, Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation in the Palestinian National Authority and head of the Palestinian side, said that they presented the issue of Jerusalem very clearly during the meetings of the committee, confirming that no measures can be taken to infringe the rights of the Palestinian people or any Arab or Muslim in Jerusalem.

He said that Jerusalem is an important trust which we intend to defend with everything we have. It does not belong to the Palestinian people alone, despite being the capital of Palestine. He added that the Palestinian position was very tough, because land expropriations continue as does the assault on Jerusalem and the rights of the Palestinian people.

Nabil Sha'th, head of the Palestinian side, said that it agreed to the Israeli delegation's request to call a meeting of a Palestinian-Israeli committee on 9 May in Jerusalem. It will be chaired by Faysal al-Husayni on the Palestinian side and Moshe Shahal on the Israeli side.

He added that this committee was formed after the Oslo agreement but has not met regularly. The Palestinian side insisted on holding a meeting of this committee on 9 May—no later—to immediately look into the possibility of reversing the Israeli decision to expropriate Palestinian land in Jerusalem and resolving the problem.

He said he hopes that the committee will manage to solve this problem; otherwise, we will persist until the issue of Jerusalem is discussed at the Security Council and all international forums.

Dr. Sha'th said that Jerusalem is not only a Palestinian responsibility but also an Arab, Islamic, and international responsibility. He called for resolving this issue within the framework of international legitimacy, at the negotiating table. He added: We have agreed to form another committee to discuss Jerusalem affairs. It is composed of Jamil al-Tarifi for the Palestinian side and General Don Shahul [name as transliterated] for the Israeli side. It will discuss all issues relating to the population of Jerusalem, such as the issue of the crossing points. He pointed out that in its work, the committee will be guided by the message that Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres sent to the late Norwegian foreign minister, who sponsored the Oslo Agreement. He noted that this message protects and safeguards the interests

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of the population of Jerusalem until a final solution to the problem is found.

Dr. Sha'th noted that the Liaison Committee also discussed all issues relating to the redeployment of the Israeli forces and to the holding of the legislative elections in the West Bank. He said that the Israeli delegation stressed Israel's commitment to completing all negotiations on the elections before 1 July. He noted that agreement was reached to intensify the negotiations between 15 May and 15 June to come up with something that can be implemented in the West Bank. He said that timetables were established to meet a number of the Palestinian demands that Israel had earlier refused, such as safe corridors, airports, crossing-points, the port, and opening routes to Egypt and Jordan so that the Gaza Strip is not isolated. He expressed disappointment with Israel's failure to release the agreed-upon number of Palestinian detainees. Israel has only released 250 prisoners who have almost completed their terms. Dr. Sha'th pointed out that the release of the Palestinian detainees would be a positive step in advancing the peace process.

Dr. Sha'th said that Israel's expropriation of Palestinian land is an illegal act, and a violation of international legitimacy and the Oslo Agreement. He hopes that Israel will fulfill its pledges regarding redeploying its forces and holding elections by 1 July. However, he expressed regret that he does not expect a solution to these issues to be reached in the short time remaining. He said that at the 9 May meeting of the Palestinian-Israeli committee on Jerusalem, the Palestinian side will submit documents that prove the Palestinians have a right to the expropriated land. He stressed that this is Palestinian land that has been occupied since 1967. He noted that Israel is changing the demographic structure in Jerusalem by forcing Palestinians to leave and replacing them with Israelis.

Dr. Sha'th noted that no agreement has, to date, been reached on the redeployment of the Israeli forces in the West Bank. He said that this issue is a cause of concern regarding Israel's ability to fulfill its pledges and settle all these issues by 1 July, as the Palestinian-Israeli agreement stipulates. He stressed that he has no doubt that in the next five years there will be an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital. He pointed out that the Palestinian and Israeli citizens will pay the price for any delay, and noted that violence is partly due to the delay in implementing the peace process.

Peres Presents 'Tough Stand'

TA0805163095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 8 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has said that Israel managed to drive a wedge in the Arab offensive during his talks in Cairo. He said he presented a tough stand on Jerusalem because there was an attempt to link the capital to the Palestinian autonomy. He said it was difficult to repulse the Arab offensive on that issue, but he exploited the fact that the data presented by the Egyptians and Palestinians was imprecise and referred to Greater Jerusalem. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that Ministers Peres, Shahal, Sarid, and their aides returned home from Cairo an hour ago.

Peres: Land Problem Dealt With

TA0805155495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 8 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Israel and the Palestinians have concluded talks in Cairo on implementing the interim phase of the self-rule agreement. Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said the talks helped advance the peace process and that a way has been found to deal with the dispute over Israel's expropriation of land in East Jerusalem. The two sides agreed that Police Minister Moshe Shahal and Palestinian official Faysal al-Husayni would go over the plans to determine ownership of the land. Peres earlier had said that most of the land being confiscated belongs to Jews.

During the talks, Israel rejected a request by the Palestinians to reopen the wholesale market in Hebron. The market was closed following the Hebron massacre. Environment Minister Yosi Sarid, who took part in the talks, said the security problem in Hebron is particularly difficult. He and Police Minister Moshe Shahal are to meet next week with the head of Central Command, Ilan Biran, to discuss the situation.

Earlier, Foreign Minister Peres met with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. The two sides agreed to improve the relations between the two countries. They said that sensitive issues, such as the nuclear issue and Jerusalem, will be dealt with in talks between the foreign ministers of both countries.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1500 GMT on 8 May reports that President Mubarak "proposed to speed up the refinery project in Alexandria, a joint project being executed by Israeli and Egyptian businessmen with

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European and U.S. financing. Minister Peres proposed to build a joint Israeli-Egyptian-Palestinian industrial zone in Rafah which would enjoy the same terms as a free trade zone.

["A small crisis occurred in the talks between Israel and the Palestinians in the wake of Sa'ib 'Urayqat's meeting with Israeli journalists last night in which he called Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres a brilliant liar. Dr. 'Urayqat has denied having uttered such words. The two delegations held lengthy deliberations on the issue today, and ultimately Nabil Sha'th went to Peres' hotel room to iron out the differences."]

Sha'th, 'Urayqat Refute Peres 'Figures'

NC0805145395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1250 GMT 8 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 8 May (MENA) — Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of local government in the Palestinian Authority [PA], has stated that the main issues still under study by the Palestinian-Israeli Liaison Committee are the expropriation of Palestinian land in East Jerusalem and the constant Israeli settlement activity.

Speaking to reporters today before the start of the committee meeting, 'Urayqat added that Faysal al-Husayni, PA official in charge of the Jerusalem file, will meet tomorrow, Tuesday, with Israeli Police Minister Moshe Shahal to present him with a full file on the ownership of Palestinian land in East Jerusalem, Bayt Hanin, and al-Shurayfat. He stressed that the Palestinian side has figures showing that what Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said about Arab Jerusalem is completely inaccurate.

Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation in the PA and head of the Palestinian side in the Liaison Committee, stated that the Palestinian-Israeli Committee on Jerusalem, which will meet tomorrow, operates outside the Gaza-Jericho Agreement and that his side will seek to activate its work. Sha'th added: We do not agree with the figures mentioned by Peres yesterday on Jerusalem because we have evidence to prove that the expropriated land is Arab and Palestinian land and is part of East Jerusalem and the West Bank, which were occupied in 1967. Therefore, seizing this land constitutions a violation of international law, he added.

Dr. Sha'th and Peres held a private meeting before the start of the Palestinian-Israeli Liaison Committee session to discuss a number of issues to be debated.

Sides Aim To Reach July Deadline

JN0805190195 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1730 GMT 8 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation, has stated that the Palestinian and Israeli sides agreed to intensify negotiations in order to reach an agreement on implementing the second phase of the Declaration of Principles before 1 July.

Following the conclusion of the meetings of the Palestinian-Israeli Higher Liaison Committee in Cairo this evening, Sha'th asserted that Faysal al-Husayni, official in charge of the Jerusalem file in the National Authority, will meet with Israeli Police Minister Moshe Shahal in Jerusalem tomorrow to discuss the Israeli decision to expropriate Palestinian land in the Jerusalem area.

Sha'th added that the Palestinian side insisted on holding the meeting tomorrow in order to immediately consider the possibility of canceling this Israeli decision and resolving the problem before raising it at the UN security Council and other international forums.

For his part, Shim'on Peres, who chaired the Israeli side to the Liaison Committee meetings, said reaching an agreement before 1 July on redeployment and elections depends on the Palestinian and Israeli sides. He added that Israel will make every effort to reach an agreement before the set date.

Further Talks Scheduled Over Jerusalem Land Seizures

Faysal: Meeting Not Yet Definite

NC0905090395 Paris AFP in English 0816 GMT 9 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jerusalem, May 9 (AFP) — The Palestinian leadership threw doubt Tuesday [9 May] on talks which were scheduled with Israel over Jerusalem land seizures, saying the issue was still under study.

In Cairo on Monday, PLO negotiator Nabil Sha'th announced the two sides would meet in Jerusalem on Tuesday to clear up the facts about the confiscation of land.

He said Israeli Police Minister Moshe Shahal would meet Faysal al-Husayni, the unofficial Palestinian "minister" for Jerusalem.

But a spokesman for Faysal's office issued a statement said the meeting "had not yet been decided upon by the Palestinian side.

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"The Palestinian leadership is studying the issue in order to take a decision," the statement said.

Israeli officials did not seem sure of when the meeting might take place, police spokesman Eric Bar Chen told AFP.

Shahal was scheduled to spend most of the day in parliament.

PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat has urged the United Nations to intervene to halt the confiscation of 53 hectares (131 acres) of land in east Jerusalem, which Israel annexed in 1967.

Israel has announced intentions to seize far more land in the coming months.

Talks To Focus on 'Old Issues'

JN0905081295 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0700 GMT 9 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Commenting on Israel's refusal to discuss its expropriation of lands in Jerusalem at the UN Security Council and on Jerusalem's expected meeting today between Faysal al-Husayni, official in charge of the Palestinian file in the National Authority, and Israeli Police Minister Moshe Shahal, Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, adviser to President Yasir 'Arafat, has said: This meeting [between al-Husayni and Shahal] will be devoted to discussing old issues which were supposed to be discussed a long time ago. This meeting has nothing to do with the Palstinian-Arab-Islamic decision to go to the Security Council to discuss the serious violation in Jerusalem and its holy Islamic and Christian holy places, as well as Israel's continuous demographic change in the holy city.

Abu-Rudaynah said: According to the [Palestinian-Israeli] agreement, the issue of Jerusalem will be discussed in the second stage of the talks. This was reiterated by the U.S. letter of assurances and the letter presented by Israel through former Norwegian Foreign Minister Holst, which became an indivisible part of the Declaration of Principles. Tomorrow's [as heard] meeting cannot at all be considered an alternative to the Security Council despite all Israeli attempts. He added that the move toward the UN Security Council to discuss the issue of Jerusalem has become an Arab and Palestinian decision.

Shahal Previews Meeting

TA0905091695 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 9 May 95

[Telephone interview with Police Minister Moshe Shahal by correspondents Uri Paz and Gilat Mo'av; place not given — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Paz] Good morning, Minister Shahal.

[Shahal] Good morning.

[Paz] You will be meeting with Faysal al-Husayni today. We have just heard a report about the ostensibly misleading data given to the Foreign Ministry by the construction and housing minister. Is it possible the entire debate on land expropriation is being conducted on the basis of erroneous data, which will be far from helpful when you meet with al-Husayni today?

[Shahal] I do not plan to discuss the data — which I do not have, by the way — with Faysal al-Husayni.

[Paz] Are you not familiar with the story?

[Shahal] Of course I am; I was there in Cairo with the foreign minister, and we are familiar with the data as it was given at the cabinet meeting on Sunday [7 May]. The data is not the problem. The question now is how normal life can be resumed and how the Jerusalem issue can stop being the center of general interest, because the debate will contribute nothing to a stronger Jerusalem, and its only objective should be to help the sides to regain their sense of proportion with regard to the city's Jewish and Arab residents' problems.

[Mo'av] Moshe Shahal, you are scheduled to meet with Faysal al-Husayni, the Palestinian Authority official in charge of Jerusalem affairs today. What will you discuss?

[Shahal] First of all, I would like to comment on titles you people bestow. There is an ongoing channel of communication between Faysal al-Husayni and me, which helps us to sort out problems. The purpose is not to star in the media, but rather to solve matters between the inhabitants and us, between the inhabitants and the authorities. This efficient channel of communication has helped solve many problems so far.

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[Mo'av] What are the main problems preoccupying the Palestinians in Jerusalem today?

[Shahal] A lot of problems. In my opinion, we should remember that our struggle for the integrity of Jerusalem is a complex and arduous one. None of us here disagrees that Jerusalem is a united city and the capital of the State of Israel. However, there is a population of 160,000 Arabs living in the city. The State of Israel, which seeks to keep the city as its unified capital, should make sure there is equality with regard to access to shrines held sacred by all the religions, equality for the city's Arab inhabitants. There is one problem I can share with you: Some 17,000 city inhabitants lack satisfactory housing. Their main claim — I stress, it is still only a claim, as I have not looked into it yet — is that for years, the planning committee has been citing various reasons why Arabs should not be given building licenses. If problems are settled reasonably on the basis of the premise that all inhabitants without exception should be able to receive equal services, at least some of the problems will disappear.

[Mo'av] Which brings us back to the land expropriation issue. Do you think the timing of the decision was favorable?

[Shahal] The matter of timing is an entirely different question, and if I form an opinion, I will voice it elsewhere.

[Paz] Does your answer imply you do not concur with the timing?

[Shahal] Look, I will say the following: This situation requires a lot of common sense and acumen. To wit: Israeli Governments have been doing things without making the headlines since 1967. Lately there has been too much talk about the unity of Jerusalem, and it has all been for domestic political consumption rather than for the matter itself. The government, which is the responsible body, should act with a great deal of acumen in this matter. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

Minister: Cabinet Ready To Implement DOP's 2d Stage

JN0705154695 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 7 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Minister of Higher Education Yasir 'Amr has said that the National Authority cabinet is working to build an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital. In statements to Voice of Palestine Radio today, 'Amr said that Palestinian political activity at this stage is focusing on implementing the second phase of the Declaration of Principles [DOP]. This phase deals with the redeployment of the Israeli Army and holding legislative elections.

The minister of education noted that his Ministry is seeking to promote the educational process and address the state of collapse caused by Israeli occupation practices against the Palestinian educational process.

Opposition Groups' Statement on Cairo Accord Anniversary

TA0805120995 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 7 May 95 p 6

[FBIS Translated Text] Ramallah — Three Palestinian opposition national and Islamic movements have called on the Palestinian Authority to renounce the Cairo accord and return to what they called the PLO's constants, firm national and Islamic principles, and the programs of national and popular consensus and to rebuild the Palestinian edifice on stronger foundations based on freedom of expression and respect for the opinion of others.

In a joint statement issued yesterday, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] criticized the Cairo accord on the occasion of its first anniversary. They said that this accord was a natural extension and translation of the Oslo accord which ignored our people's national and legitimate rights and confined them to self-rule devoid of any sovereign or legislative powers.

It is worth noting that the factions that signed this statement are allied with seven other factions within the framework of the 10 forces' alliance. The statement noted that the practical experience of the Cairo accord and its implementation have clearly led to the continued isolation of Jerusalem from the rest of the Palestinian territories, its continued Judaization, and the confiscation of Arab lands for settlement activity.

Israel Releases 57 Palestinian Detainees

JN0805193795 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1730 GMT 8 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Israeli authorities have released 37 prisoners from the Gaza Strip who were detained at the Negev detention camp and the Ashqelon and Nafha prisons. They were received by hundreds of citizens, led by Colonel Mazin 'Izz-al-Din, the acting political commissioner of the National Security forces. [passage omitted]

The Israeli occupation authorities have also released 20 Palestinian detainees from the Hebron prison and the al-Zahiriyah detention camp in the Hebron area.

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It is noteworthy that the Israeli authorities announced through Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres that it intends to release 258 detainess, including eight female prisoners.

Police Release DFLP, Detain Hamas, Jihad Members

TA0905093595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 9 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian police have released 17 members of Nayif Hawatimah's Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] detained following an attack on Israeli tanker security guards in Nahal 'Oz about three months ago.

Our correspondents Yoni Ben-Menahem and Dani Zaqen report that the Palestinian security forces have detained over 20 Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad activists in the Gaza Strip in the past few days.

PA's Abu-Middayn on Weapons Collection in Gaza

JN0705173995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1430 GMT 7 May 95

[Interview with Furayh Abu-Middayn, official in charge of justice at the Palestinian Authority, by Hasan Abu-Zayid; place and date not given; from "With the Events" program — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Abu-Zayid] Furayh Abu-Middayn, justice minister at the Palestinian Authority [PA], can you tell us about the progress of the campaign to collect weapons from citizens in the Gaza Strip? Have citizens responded favorably and handed in their weapons in this last month of the ultimatum?

[Middayn] In fact we have started collecting weapons, particularly those that are seen in the street. These are illegal, whether or not the one-month ultimatum is over. But that effort will be intensified further after the end of the one-month ultimatum. This is especially the case in view of yesterday's incident at a soccer match in Khan Yunus. More than 20 or 25 weapons were brandished at a soccer ground, which is supposed to be sacred and where only sportsmanship, and not weapons or excessive emotions, is supposed to be demonstrated. Despite that, shots were fired at the player who scored a goal and some 20 or 25 weapons pieces were brandished. What does this mean? It means these are outlawed weapons in this country.

Therefore, we will collect these weapons, in a calm, peaceful way, but with great determination. These unrestrained, uncontrolled weapons must be collected from the streets through all means and legal methods. I think the public understands this measure now. This is not a political issue, as claimed by some people. It is an issue related to the citizen's security and security in the street. Also, taking into consideration the economic hardship, the presence of weapons in the hands of the people will render internal security a very pressing issue, and we will suffer from this issue when we move to the West Bank. However, we will start in Gaza and our success in Gaza will make our success in the West Bank easier. This is an irreversible campaign.

[Abu-Zayid] Abu-Mustafa [Abu-Middayn]: Are the citizens here in the Gaza Strip responding favorably to these measures?

[Middayn] There was a positive response from the silent majority; 85 to 90 percent of the people accept these measures. As I have said, these manifestations of weapons are a cause of worry to any person and there is a very good response from the people. Maybe it is man's nature to love to possess a weapon. We are not against the possession of weapons, provided they are kept inside ones's house to protect himself, money, and so forth, and not to be exhibited in the street and at festivals and occasions similar to those which I have mentioned.

[Abu-Zayid] Mr. Furayh Abu-Middayn: If certain parties refuse to hand in their weapons, what will be the Palestinian Authority's response?

[Middayn] There will be severe punishment. There are laws relating to the possession of weapons. It is not the Justice Ministry which will pass judgment since there are special courts to handle such cases. According to the law, it is unlawful to carry weapons or any part of a weapon, for example a magazine loaded with bullets or bullets alone. The punishments will, in my view, be harsh to deter all these manifestations which we had to put up with last year.

Sudan Said To Train 'Extremists' for Self-Rule Area Actions

NC0805141295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1300 GMT 8 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza, 8 May (MENA)—The Palestinian weekly newspaper AL-MANAR reports today that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has sent a message to Dr. Hasan al-Turani, secretary general of the Islamic Front in Sudan. The message was conveyed by Amin al-Hindi, chief of the Palestinian intelligence service.

The paper notes that investigations conducted by the Palestinian Authority of several extremists revealed that

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the Sudanese regime had trained these extremists to carry out military operations in the self-rule areas.

Waqf: U.S. Embassy Land Belongs to Palestinians

TA0905093795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 9 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] 'Adnan al-Husayni, one of the Jerusalem Waqf chiefs, maintains that the plot on which the U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem is to be built belongs to Palestinians. He contends that the empty 40-dunam lot in west Jerusalem had been given to the waqf by Shaykh Muhammad Khalidi over 200 years ago.

A source at the U.S. Consulate in Jerusalem told an AFP correspondent that the United States was acting on the premise that the Absentees' Property Law applied to the plot. The matter had been checked by consulate attorneys, and there was no doubt as to the ownership of the land.

Radio Comments on Objectives of Albright Tour

JN0805202195 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1650 GMT 8 May 95

[Commentary by "the al-Quds special correspondent in Jerusalem" — read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] Madeleine Albright is a woman who can alone shake the world. Like Margaret Thatcher when she assumed office in Britain, they call Albright at the United Nations the iron lady. Albright, however, is a different case. She is the U.S. representative at the UN Security Council. Because the United States is the decisionmaker in this new world order, which has been created by the United States in the interest of world Zionism, its representative at the UN Security Council is the designer of the decisions sought by Zionism at the council.

Unlike other representatives at the United Nations, Albright left her seat and came to the Arab region in a tour of some capitals revolving in the U.S.-Zionist orbit. Because her mission has a special nature and a major objective, Albright went to Gaza to meet with 'Arafat and the symbols of his authority and to tell them things in line with her mission. What has brought this Albright to the region? Almost all past U.S. tours of the region were carried out by Warren Christopher, and sometimes by Dennis Ross and his likes of junior U.S. State Department employees. In fact, we must acknowledge that some symbols of the 'Arafat authority spoke briefly to the U.S. emissary about the Zionist entity's recent measures of expropriating more land and Jerusalem and that Albright reiterated the U.S. stand on settlement activity, which has received constant U.S. support and for which funds have been allocated from the money of U.S. taxpayers to expand it on the Palestinian soil.

However, that was not Albright's mission. Her arrival was preceded by extensive U.S. threats to every regime opposed to the U.S.-Zionist stand on the extension of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. In fact, the decision to extend the treaty has broader dimensions, since most of the states that signed it are not opposed to its extension, especially those states that are confident about themselves and their capabilities. However, there are some parties that are still hesitant and believe that through some acting and theatrical scenes of indecisiveness they may attain some small gains. All of this, of course, is to no avail. Therefore, for those people, Albright arrived. She did not forget to stop in Gaza, where the limited self-rule authority has nothing to do with nuclear weapons, except for the waste coming out of the Zionist Demona reactor and dumped nearby.

The U.S. threats to which we have indicated are closely linked to the Islamic Republic of Iran, which has explained the nature of its relationship with Russia, North Korea, and others regarding nuclear issues and the peaceful purposes governing that relationship. However, the United States views Muslim Iran as its arch enemy and that of the Zionist entity in usurped Palestine despite all its U.S. nuclear and nonnuclear weapons. This is the point of Albright's visit, which came in the wake of the Oklahoma bombing. A boomerang of the U.S. state terrorism, the bombing forced the United States to taste the same bitter cup it has prepared for the world. In addition, while the U.S. Administration should mind its domestic affairs, such as the economic deterioration, moral degeneration, and political corruption, it is continuing its mission as a world policeman in the service and defense of world Zionism and its objectives. Clinton has exposed his intentions when he announced a ban on trade with Iran, talked about nuclear presence in Iran, and talked about Iran's support for the revolutionary Islamic movements in the world. He also reiterated Rabin's statements against Islamic forces rejecting the occupation and its protege in the Gaza-Jericho protectorate. Meanwhile, a member of Rabin's gang said that discussions are underway to prevent the arrival of support to the opposition forces in Palestine. In view of all that, we do not need any extra clarifications about Albright's instigative mission against the forces of struggle rejecting defeat and capitulation.

If the limited administrative self-rule authority has been ordered by Albright to chase and besiege the Palestinian militant elements, then the iron woman's visit has come to inform the paper men with whom she met of the prize prepared for them in accordance with Rabin's calculations.

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Algeria

Presidency Said Satisfied With Letter From FIS' Madani

MM0905110595 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 8 May 95 pp 1, 6

[FBIS Translated Text] Algiers, AL-HAYAH — Informed sources in Algeria have confirmed to AL-HAYAH that the state's presidency received three weeks ago a letter from Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] leader Abassi Madani, who is in Douera commune in the Algerian capital.

Despite the concealment of the letter's content, sources close to the presidency have expressed satisfaction with "its content." However, they declined to reveal it.

In the same context the "national covenant" group completed yesterday morning the drafting of a letter expected to be sent to President Liamine Zeroual, demanding their "right to the media." It is the first letter of its kind to be sent by the national covenant group to the head of state. Officials from the Socialist Forces Front [FFS] leadership have traveled to Switzerland to meet with FFS leader Hocine Ait Ahmed to brief him on the measures expected to be taken within the national covenant group.

AL-HAYAH has learned that the covenant group will meet next Sunday in the FFS' headquarters to draw up an agenda and to begin to organize joint gatherings and marches by the parties signatory to the covenant (seven parties and a human rights association).

FLN Leader Denounces Security Forces' Excesses

LD0805212095 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 8 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In an interview published today by the daily LIBERTE, Mr. Abdelhamid Mehri, secretary general of the former party in power, the FLN [National Liberation Front], denounces the pressure he says the authorities have been exerting on the media regarding news about violence. He also says that the security forces have, I quote, gone far beyond their remit in their struggle against Islamist groups.

This behavior, he says, does not promote the restoration of a healthy notion of the state. Mr. Mehri suggests that an inquiry commission be set up to get to the bottom of the excesses he has mentioned, those of the security forces. Should this take place, would this commission have the means to institute proceedings against those behind these acts? That is what Farida Ayari asked Abdelhamid Mehri. This is his answer:

[Begin recording] [Mehri] An inquiry commission which is not backed by the state and which has not received a guarantee from the state that the dispositions of the Constitution on the subject will be heeded scrupulously — and if the state does not commit itself to implement all the recommendations of such a commission, it would quite obviously be pointless.

[Ayari] Mr. Mehri, can one still speak of a state in Algeria when one sees this situation of widespread violence, when one sees that the government is helping civilians get weapons and set up militias which are euphemistically called communal guards?

[Mehri] I have to speak of the state, because the state is something that transcends the notion the authorities have of the way they fulfill their responsibilities in the name of the state. I make a clear distinction between the state and de facto power, which is currently being exercised through diverse actions, including precisely the creation of armed militias with the backing of the authorities and the establishment of a municipal police force with prerogatives which go far beyond the prerogatives or municipal guards of other countries. [end recording]

Sifi Addresses Setif Rally on Security, Politics

LD0905102295 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 9 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The town of Setif was yesterday an important venue for the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the massacres of 8 May 1945 [when French troops opened fire on Algerians who took to the streets to demand independence]. In a happy atmosphere under the banner — Loyalty to the homeland and the message of the martyrs — a mass rally, with thousands of people taking part, was held.

The celebrations marking this anniversary were chaired by Mr. Mokdad Sifi, the head of the government, who was leading an important ministerial delegation. [passage omitted]

The head of government chaired at Rachid Hadjeb Hall a mass rally where he made a speech in which he dwelt on the legacy of the events of 8 May 95 and the legacy of the glorious revolution of 1 November 1954.

The head of government said in his speech, inter alia, that 8 May 1945 was a historic day. It was the occasion when the people made their claim to freedom and heard a right claim which was nonetheless oppressed by an iron fist policy. [passage omitted]

Mr. Mokdad Sifi praised the role played in the past by the mujahidin against colonialism as well as their role today against terrorism in order to protect the nation's dignity and honor. Concerning statements made by some politicians in our country alleging the establishment of

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militias [by the government], the head of government denied such claims saying: There are only Algerians in the country. They are the mujahidin, their sons, the sons of martyrs and nationalist youths serving in the security forces and the municipal guards to protect citizens from murder and rape. The population in the towns and in the countryside has answered the call of martyrdom to protect and defend the homeland, he added.

Mr. Mokdad Sifi urged on this occasion all politicians, particularly those who are defenders of the national cause, to help in the efforts aiming at bringing about peace and concord in the country. He added, in this respect: Also, it is still not too late for those who strayed and joined in terrorism to regain their senses. Many people have surrendered to the authorities. They have benefitted from the guarantees offered by the state and they are better off today, he insisted.

Concerning the forthcoming the presidential elections, the head of government indicated that it is time to allow the people to have its say as soon as possible. Given the prevailing security in the country, there is a sincere and dedicated political willingness to allow the people to choose its president, its deputies, and its mayors, as well as its destiny, he pointed out. In this respect, he urged the political parties to try and contribute to the organization and the management of the elections.

Furthermore, he reiterated the authorities' willingness to hear all proposals aiming at allowing the people to make its choices in an effort to make the celebrations marking the 41st anniversary of the 1 November Revolution the beginning of a new era in which wisdom prevails. Before concluding his speech, he besought Almighty God on the eve of the [pilgrims'] standing on Mount 'Arafat and the advent of the blessed 'Id al-Adha to end sedition and allow love to grow among the children of this nation.

Egypt

Foreign Minister Musa Meets Israel's Peres

Discuss Syrian Track

TA0805115195 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 8 May 95 p 2

[Report from Cairo by Dan Avidan]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Syrian President al-Asad has rejected an Egyptian Government proposal to launch a secret dialogue with Israel, as Egypt itself did in the past in preparation for signing the Camp David Accords. The proposal was submitted by Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa during a meeting with al-Asad in Damascus last week. It was reported that President Mubarak intends to repeat this proposal in a meeting to be held with al-Asad soon. In reaction to the proposal, al-Asad told Musa that the Egyptian Government had better demand that Prime Minister Rabin implement a full withdrawal from the Golan Heights before it urges him to open secret negotiations with Israel. Musa briefed al-Asad about the Dayan-al-Tuhami meetings, which paved the way for the Israeli-Egyptian peace agreement. He emphasized the advantages of secret negotiations. Al-Asad retorted: "Why do you keep querying us about our position instead of urging Rabin to reveal his position? We have heard nothing substantial from him and will continue the negotiations with Israel via U.S. mediation."

The issue of the stalemated Israeli-Syrian negotiations was raised in the meeting between Foreign Minister Peres and Egyptian Foreign Minister Musa in Cairo yesterday. Peres claimed that al-Asad remains an enigma for Israel, which does not know what he wants and when he wants it. Peres complained about the fact that al-Asad is evading covert contacts with Israel. 'Usamah al-Baz told Peres that Egypt keeps reiterating to al-Asad the advantages it has derived from the secret dialogue with Israel. Musa explained that the problem in the Israeli-Syrian negotiations is that al-Asad and Rabin cannot decide who will reveal his cards first: al-Asad regarding the contents of peace and normalization, or Rabin on a full withdrawal from the Golan Heights. He said he has no new messages regarding any change in Syria's consistent negotiating policy. Peres said a breakthrough in Israeli-Syrian negotiations is unlikely as long as al-Asad insists on maintaining the negotiations only via U.S. mediation.

It has been learned that in a meeting with foreign interlocutors some time ago, President Mubarak said he himself finds it difficult to understand several aspects of al-Asad's policy on political negotiations. [passage omitted]

Ministers Hold News Conference

NC0805130995 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 8 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres at the Presidential Office this morning.

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa attended the meeting on the Egyptian side. On the Israeli side the meeting was attended by Environment Minister Yosi Sarid; Minister of Police Affairs Moshe Shahal; Israeli Ambassador in Cairo David Sultan; Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir; and Avi Jel, the Foreign Ministry's deputy director general [name and title as received].

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Foreign Minister Musa stated that the talks were cordial and frank. They were also important and constructive, covering every issue of interest pertaining to the peace process and developments in the region. In the news conference held after the talks, Musa said Shim'on Peres informed President Mubarak of the various elements of the Israeli stance. He said Peres heard President Mubarak's viewpoint on developments regarding Jerusalem, the peace process, and events in the region in general.

'Amr Musa said bilateral contacts and consultations will continue until they find a way to address the problems before the peace process.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres then made statements in which he affirmed that his talks with President Mubarak were very beneficial and that Egypt and Israel played an important role in the peace process, not only regarding peace between them, but also regarding peace on the Palestinian track. He added that he informed the president that they are serious about their ties and that they wish to continue the peace process until they realize the second stage of the agreement with the Palestinians. He said that President Mubarak affirmed to him the importance of finalizing the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles to establish comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

Peres added that they discussed every aspect of the peace process, including the necessary economic and political steps. He said the talks covered many topics. The other topics will be discussed during meetings to realize the appropriate solution. He said he believes today's meeting was important and beneficial for the peace process.

'Amr Musa answered a question on reaching results over the points of dispute during the meeting. He said: The issues of dispute are being discussed extensively. It is clear that Shim'on Peres and the Israeli delegation heard and understood the Egyptian viewpoint and that the position is crucial. They also understood that they must deal with the peace process on the basis of aspects that are different from the proposed ones. We hope that through the continuous contacts that will be taking place and through the agreements and reactions, we will be considering the peace process and the commitments agreed upon within its framework.

Answering a question on President Mubarak's viewpoint regarding Peres' explanation of the crisis over the expropriation of land in Jerusalem, 'Amr Musa said President Mubarak listened to what Peres said. Egypt's contacts will continue not only with the Israelis, but also with the Palestinians to resolve the situation through negotiations and peaceful means.

Answering a question on whether Peres' clarifications were convincing, 'Amr Musa said: We must listen to all the sides; the peace process has many sides.

To a question put to him on Egypt's viewpoint regarding the expropriation of land in Jerusalem, 'Amr Musa said: Egypt's stance is clear. We have declared this repeatedly. The issue is not one of statements. It is a very sensitive issue.

Answering a question put to 'Amr Musa on whether they managed, during these talks, to find a solution to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty issue, he said: The problem does not lie in the Treaty, but in the Israeli nuclear program.

Libyan Official Proposes 'Punishing Israel'

NC0705193395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1815 GMT 7 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 7 May (MENA) — Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met this evening with Jum'ah al-Fazzani, secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee for Unity. Following the meeting, al-Fazzani stated that they had discussed issues of mutual interest as part of the consultation and coordination between Egypt and Libya.

Regarding the recent Arab League statement on Israel's measures in Jerusalem, al-Fazzani said that the Libyan delegation is not very satisfied with this decision. He added: The Libyan delegation proposed punishing Israel by halting all negotiations and Arab links with it. The Libyan official added that the negotiations and relations with Israel could be resumed once it backed down on these measures.

Asked about the call to convene an Arab summit, al-Fazzani added that Libya supports the Arab League secretary general's call for this summit, which needs consultation and measures to convene.

Asked about the difficulties facing this summit, al-Fazzani pointed out that there are subjective and objective factors involved. The subjective factors deal with the sensitivity that some Arab states feel about holding such a summit, he added, noting that some powers do not want to see unity in the Arab position.

Al-Fazzani praised the Egyptian-Libyan relations in all fields and added that consultation and coordination continue between the two countries.

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Daily Criticizes U.S. Stance on Israeli Conduct

NC0905070695 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0610 GMT 9 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 9 May (MENA) — AL-AKHBAR criticizes the United States for not trying to persuade Israel to correct the odd conduct it pursues with the various Arab parties.

In an editorial today, AL-AKHBAR points out that Arab parties are not asking the United States to put pressure on Rabin. They expected Washington at least to play its alleged role as a full partner to the Arab-Israeli negotiations and to draw Israel's attention to the fact that its attitude toward Arab states agrees with neither the rules of international law nor UN Security Council resolutions.

The paper adds that the most recent evidence of the infirm U.S. stance on Israel was the negative position it assumed on the Israeli crime of expropriating Arab land in Jerusalem and the active Judaization of the city in which Arabs have lived for centuries.

The paper says that saving the peace march requires an active U.S. role instead of mere words. The United States should warn Israel that it will be the sole loser if the peace march stumbles or fails, AL-AKHBAR says.

Writer Views Iran Embargo, Israeli Nuclear Arms

NC0805111795 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 4 May 95 p 3

[From the "Words" column by Mahmud 'Abd-al-Mun'im Murad]

[FBIS Translated Text] It has become clear that it is impossible for a single country, such as the United States, to dominate and impose its hegemony on the entire world. Historically, this has never happened and we do not think it ever will. No single state, no matter how militarily and economically strong, can lead the world and impose a certain policy on it without objection from anyone.

Europe, largely a U.S. ally within the developed industrial Western camp, is not responding to Washington's call for an international economic embargo against Iran. Even Canada—a friend of the United States, part of North America, and a NAFTA member—has not joined Washington in its call for anti-Iran economic and trade sanctions. As experts say, the weapon of sanctions is only slightly effective. Moreover, Iranian oil is a strategic commodity and one of the most important materials needed for industry, transport, and other sectors.

It is the interests that move the world, and it is in the interest of states to increase their exports and decrease their imports. The U.S. call for sanctions means that Iran would not receive the commodities it needs, and this may be in the interest of other exporting countries that are rivals to the United States. Therefore, England, France, Canada, and others will find in the U.S. embargo a chance to increase their own exports to Iran after this U.S. withdrawal from the competition.

From the political and security angle, and as far as relations between the United States and the Middle East are concerned, it has appeared so far that the Arab countries, especially the Gulf states, have remained silent over the U.S. decision. Iran's acquisition of nuclear weapons may threaten the security of Arab countries, especially the neighboring Gulf states, but it represents a confrontation of Israel's nuclear power by an Islamic country. No Arab or Muslim has ever expressed satisfaction that Israel is the only country in the region with nuclear weapons.

Therefore, President Husni Mubarak's proposal to free the Middle East from nuclear weapons is a right, logical, and effective proposal for security, stability, and security in this rich, important, and tense region. This Egyptian proposal would have reassured the United States if it had realized where its true interests were and had abandoned its biased policy toward Israel, whether the latter is right or wrong. Freeing the region from nuclear weapons is the solution that brings peace, security, and calm to all states of the region, along with the United States and the whole world.

When Iran, Iraq, and Israel are treated equally as far as the ban on the spread of nuclear weapons is concerned, everybody will feel justice, security, and stability in international relations. The United States could have supported the Egyptian proposal. If it had, it would have found no need or meaning for calling on the world to boycott Iran so that it will not make nuclear bombs.

Israel's possession of nuclear weapons is the problem, and it is what prompts other countries in the region to try to make such weapons. But removing these dangerous weapons from the region, including Israel, Iran, and elsewhere, is the right and just solution to which no one objects.

Article Criticizes U.S. Economic Embargo on Iran

NC0805113195 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 4 May 95 p 4

[Article by Muhammad Abu-al-Hadid: "The United States and Iran"]

[FBIS Translated Text] By imposing a total U.S. economic embargo against Iran, U.S. President Clinton

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made the wrong decision at the wrong time and announced it at the wrong place, providing the wrong justifications.

Experience has shown that economic sanctions, be they unilateral such as Clinton's decision or collective by the international community and through UN resolutions, are no longer an effective and appropriate means to discipline a state or to overthrow a political regime, especially as we live in an open world dominated by free economy of which the U.S. is a leader and a supporter and in which each state prefers its interests over those of others.

For 35 years U.S. economic sanctions against Cuba have failed to subdue this small island or to overthrow its leader, Fidel Castro. International economic sanctions have also failed to force Libya to its knees or to topple Iraq's Saddam Husayn.

Iran, whether we agree or disagree with it, is not a small and isolated state. It is a state with civilization and history. It is the leader of a religious doctrine that has a place in Islam and among Muslims. It is an influential and major regional power. Its economy, despite the destruction it suffered because of the long war with Iraq, is still strong, making several states eager to deal with it.

For all these reasons the U.S. President's decision to impose an economic embargo on Iraq is wrong. Perhaps such a decision would have made a great impact in Iran several years ago when it had just emerged from the war with Iraq with all the pains and wounds of that war or when Khomeyni was alive. Iran's relations with several states were then broken.

Today's Iran is not yesterday's Iran. Its leaders have realized the harmful effects of isolation. Since the U.S officially declared that it will pursue a dual containment policy against Iran and Iraq, Iranian leaders have realized the only way to confront this policy is to improve their image and international relations and to open up politically to the world.

A few years ago Iran was living in an ocean of enemies. Now it is living in an ocean of friendship and good relations with its neighbors. Russia has offered to supply Iran with four nuclear reactors. China has submitted a tender for a similar deal. India has offered to supply it with defensive weapons in return for a natural gas pipeline from Iran to western India. Turkey is solving its problems with Tehran in return for a gas pipeline to Ankara. Pakistan has concluded huge deals with Iran.

More than that, far from being a source of tension and terrorism, Iran has adopted peaceful initiatives to solve problems among neighboring states. It has offered to mediate to resolve the Kashmir problem between India and Pakistan. In conjunction with a European country, namely Greece, it has submitted a joint initiative to resolve the crisis in Bosnia.

This new policy has enabled Iran to open locked doors, start to rebuild and modernize its economy, and diversify its bases and resources.

The examples are many:

Diplomatic relations between Iran and the U.S. have been severed since 1980. The U.S. has been imposing an oil embargo on Iran. Despite this ban, four major American companies have been purchasing $4 billion of crude Iranian oil annually and marketing it in Latin America. The volume of trade between the United States and Iran has reached over $350 million annually.

The figures are much bigger between Iran and its trade partners in Europe, particularly Germany, France, Britain, and Greece. Most of these countries are offering Iran loans, rescheduling its debts, or covering their exports to it with guarantees.

Let us now discuss the place Clinton chose to announce his decision and the justifications he used.

Clinton announced the decision at the World Jewish Congress at a celebration of the Holocaust anniversary. He justified his decision on the grounds that Iran supports terrorism and seeks to possess nuclear weapons.

The place and the justifications lay bare the decision and exposed its true reasons. They deprived the decision of a fig leave behind which it is trying to hide. Therefore, no one has supported the decision so far.

I am not the one who is saying this. I am quoting what two world newspapers have stated. One is American, the CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, and the other French, LE MONDE.

In its editorial yesterday, the U.S. newspaper wrote: The White House policy toward Iran will raise several questions on the independence of U.S. policy. Clinton announced the new sanctions before the World Jewish Congress and on the eve of the Holocaust anniversary. This has given rise to the belief that the decision has a domestic political dimension. Some people will ask: Where does U.S. foreign policy begin and Israeli interests begin? Unless the White House is careful, U.S. policy will be isolated instead of Iran.

The French LE MONDE wrote yesterday: Clinton's decision could have been more convincing if he had not announced it before the Jewish Congress. This shows that the decision has domestic policy connotations. It

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adds: This is the reason for the lack of sympathy with the decision.

If the Americans themselves and then the French view Clinton's decision against Iran like this, how must we view it?

Clinton punishes Iran for a probable nuclear danger and leaves Israel with an existing nuclear danger. He punishes Iran for terrorism and does not punish Israel for seizing the land of the Palestinians and breaking their bones in the midst of peace.

The aim is clear. It is to weaken Muslim Iran for Israel's benefit so it can remain the sole nuclear power in the region to impose peace when and how it wishes. This is enough reason for many to sympathize with Iran whatever the differences between them and it.

Paper Publishes Pentagon Document on Gulf Forces

LD0805214595 Tehran IRNA in English
2050 GMT 8 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Athens, May 8, IRNA — An Egyptian newspaper Monday [8 May] published a report saying it was a document prepared by the U.S. Pentagon aimed at preparing a military force of pro-American countries in the Persian Gulf to fight Iran and Iraq.

Daily AL-AHRAR said the report was a verbal Arabic translation of the original English, but the paper did not disclose how it managed to obtain the Pentagon document.

It includes plans to increase cooperation between the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (PGCC) and with what it calls "moderate" Arab-Islamic regimes with the Western forces present in the region because the PGCC states are not in a position to defend themselves.

The forces will be stationed in the PGCC states for rapid deployment, "and our presence will be peaceful, only to stop aggression," says the U.S. military document.

The military and strategic cooperation, to be financed by the PGCC states, is "to stop Iran and Iraq to impose their hegemony over the region, but if they insist in their position, we have to stop them from achieving it," the report says.

Al-Baz Urges Iran, Sudan To Stop Fueling Militants

NC0805155195 Paris AFP in English
1355 GMT 8 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, May 8 (AFP) — A senior Egyptian official called on Iran and Sudan to stop fuelling the Islamic militant movement in Egypt in an interview published Monday [8 May] in the London-based Arab weekly AL-WASAT.

"Iran must back off from its support of terrorist groups in Egypt. This (support) has been proven and is unforgivable," Ussamah al-Baz, the top political advisor to President Husni Mubarak said.

"Sudan must not try to toy with Egyptian security with claims from the ideas of the Islamic movement," he added.

Armed fundamentalists launched a violent anti-government campaign in Egypt in March 1992 which has left more than 750 dead.

Al-Baz did not define Egypt's stance towards U.S. attempts to isolate Iran with an economic embargo. The policy of isolation "is not a precise term and has not been defined exactly," he said.

Egypt has not officially taken a position on the trade and investment embargo against Iran, which U.S. President Bill Clinton announced on April 30.

But government newspapers have criticised the United States, which accuses Iran of backing terrorism and seeking nuclear weapons, for acting on a double standard by not opposing Israel's nuclear arsenal.

Al-Baz also said he expected Israel to adhere to a July 1 deadline for an agreement on extending Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank. "Anything else would weaken the (Oslo) agreements and strengthen opposition elements on both sides."

But he dismissed a proposal made in April by Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres to create a Palestinian state in Gaza as "a farce which throws away the future of the West Bank."

He also rejected Israeli calls for a common market in the Middle East, saying "perhaps we can come back to that suggestion after 25 years but in the meantime we can achieve whatever economic cooperation each nation defines as in its interest."

"The Israelis always speak as if naturalization (of relations) is an Arab commitment," he said of Israeli complaints that its 1979 peace treaty with Egypt replaced a state of war with a "cold peace".

Normalization will occur "when Israel deals with Egypt and the Arabs in general, and the Palestinians in particular, on a moral basis and with respect," al-Baz said.

Al-Baz also said that Egypt was doing its utmost to find Libyan opposition leader Mansur al-Kikhya, who disappeared while visiting Egypt in December 1993.

"We are giving great attention to his disappearance, which we consider an attempt on Egyptian national security," he said.

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Turkey's Iraq 'Ambitions,' U.S. 'Silence' Assailed

NC0805110695 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 4 May 95 p 1

[Article by Chief Editor Jalal Duwaydar: "What Is This, Rulers of Ankara?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] There have been conflicting press reports about Turkey's ambitions in the north of fraternal Iraq, ambitions the Egyptian people and Government reject.

President Mubarak has repeatedly and unequivocally stated that Egypt categorically rejects any encroachment on Iraq's unity and sovereignty over its territory.

Amid these contradictory reports on Turkish ambitions in Iraq — reports that range from confirmation to denial to sound out reaction — news agencies on Tuesday [2 May] cited Turkish President Suleyman Demirel telling Turkish journalists that he will demand that the Iraqi-Turkish border be redrawn to slice off part of northern Iraq and annex it to Turkish territory under the pretext of stopping infiltrations by Kurdish rebels!

To support these claims on Turkey's right to those parts of north Iraq, Demirel said that the 1924 Lausanne agreement stipulates that the Iraqi region of Mosul belongs to Turkey. This region, which includes Karkuk, is an oil-producing area in Iraq, and this perhaps shows some of the reasons behind the Turkish allegations.

This new position comes after the invasion the Turkish forces launched against Iraqi territory to pursue the Kurdistan Workers Party, which is accused of carrying out several terrorist and sabotage operations in Turkey. The Saddam Husayn-led Iraqi regime cannot, of course, be absolved of this violation of Iraq's sovereignty. It is the primary party responsible for this humiliation, brought about by the sinful aggression against Kuwait to devour and cancel out that state. If Saddam's ambitions, conceit, and carelessness led him to such a foolish act, he gave the Turks the excuse to launch their aggression on Iraqi territory and demand the annexation of part of Iraq!

What really causes anger is the silence of the Western countries, notably the United States, on Turkey's violation of the sovereignty of Iraq, which is helpless under Saddam Husayn's leadership — no matter how this silence is justified.

I hope things will not develop in such a way that Turkey's ambitions in Iraq become a fait accompli, as happened to the Iskenderun region, which was sliced off Syria and annexed to Turkey.

The valiant hero, Saddam Husayn, is undoubtedly happy with what is happening to his country as a result of his whims and fatal mistakes, which pushed Iraq and the Arab nation to disastrous loss and fragmentation. It is not strange that our alleged hero, who once dreamed of leading the Arab nation, deliberately celebrated his birthday a few days ago while the Turkish forces were trampling the sovereignty and sanctity of Iraqi territory.

Paper Says NPT Extension Will Not Harm Position

NC0905072095 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0335 GMT 9 May 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] Under the headline "Extending the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and Egypt's Position," an AL-JUMHURIYAH editorial says that the final decision on extending the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, which triggered a world controversy, will officially be announced tomorrow. The Treaty exposed many defects in international plans to prevent the proliferation of nuclear arms and weapons of mass destruction due to the positions some major states assumed, their failure to commit themselves genuinely to relevant international resolutions, or the refusal of some nuclear states, like Israel, to join the Treaty and their continuing nuclear threat to neighbors. Some states have striven to join the nuclear race. This ultimately destabilizes and threatens world peace, AL-JUMHURIYAH says.

It adds: If the United States has amassed the necessary consent to extend the Treaty indefinitely, Egypt's principled position will continue to constitute a landmark in international conduct taking the interests of mankind into consideration. Egypt has consented to extending the Treaty. But it called for intensified world efforts to persuade those outside the Treaty to join it. Mubarak's Egypt took the initiative to rid the strategic Middle East of weapons of mass destruction, the paper says.

[In a similar report, Cairo MENA in Arabic at 0605 GMT on 9 May adds the following: "AL-JUMHURIYAH praises Egypt's principled and enduring position on extending the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, pointing out that this position will remain a landmark in the codes of international conduct that take the interests of mankind into consideration.

["In an editorial today, AL-JUMHURIYAH points out that the expected international consent to the indefinite extension of the Treaty will not harm the Egyptian position. The paper refers to Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa's remark that we will remain part of the Treaty because it agrees with the Egyptian approach to world peace and stability.

["The paper adds that Egypt will continue to oppose the Israeli nuclear program, because it will lead to a nuclear

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race in the Middle East and because it is inconceivable to keep our eyes closed to a nuclear state and blame another just because it plans to join the nuclear club."]

Morocco

King Protests Israel's Land Expropriation

LD0605231495 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 6 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Following the the Israeli decision to expropriate Arab land in the eastern part of the holy city of Jerusalem, His Majesty King Hassan II, current chairman of the Organization of the Islamic Conference [OIC] and chairman of the Jerusalem Committee, has sent a message to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

In the same connection, his majesty has sent messages to U.S. President Bill Clinton and Russian President Boris Yeltsin, in their capacity as sponsors of the peace process in the Middle East. His majesty has also sent private messages to the heads of state and government of the other members of the UN Security Council, namely France, the United Kingdom, China, Germany, Argentina, Botswana, Honduras, Indonesia, Italy, Oman, Nigeria, the Czech Republic, and Ireland.

Copies of the aforementioned royal messages were sent to OIC Secretary General Hamid Algabid, with a view to sending them to their excellencies the heads of state and government of all the OIC member countries.

The text of the message addressed to Israeli Prime Minister Rabin follows:

To the prime minister of the State of Israel:

Mr. Prime Minister, the expropriation of 35 hectares of Arab land in Jerusalem was tantamount to a bombshell throughout the whole world, and it raised everyone's indignation. The decision has pained us personally, because we appreciate the seriousness of the consequences to Israel and to all the nations in the region equally.

We have been working patiently and with forbearance for over two decades, defying misunderstandings and, sometimes, facing opposition that could have threatened our position within the Arab nation. We have persistently endeavored to facilitate a Jewish-Arab rapprochement and to create the appropriate circumstances and a more advantageous climate to enable the regional states to live in peace and harmony.

Other pioneers added their efforts to ours in the quest for a just and lasting peace that would enable everyone freely to exercise their rights with full respect accorded to them.

The road to peace was long, and full of thorns. However, our joint determination overcame some of the difficulties, which enabled the world to see the tidings of the hoped-for peace. It is true that not all the obstacles have been removed, but the anticipation of hope has become possible. However, the expropriation of Arab land will directly lead down a dead-end tunnel which may be difficult to get out of.

We have analyzed your situation in the special circumstances experienced by Israel, and the significant merit for any political official which comes with the approach of popular consultation. Nevertheless, however great your electoral concerns may be, they cannot justify the expropriation of land. This is a serious step that is not endorsed by anyone, not to mention that it is insulting to the honor of others.

Driven by our defense of the interests of peace, we vehemently protest with all our strength at this step, and we want to draw your attention to the grave dangers to which Israel exposes itself, while engaging in an atrocious adventure with regard to a tenuous peace which Israel is still looking for means to consolidate.

We are addressing this message to you in our capacity as chairman of the OIC and of the Jerusalem Committee. Mr. Prime Minister, please accept our greetings.

[Signed] Hassan II, king of Morocco. Drafted in our royal palace in Rabat, 3 May 1995.

His Majesty King Hassan II, may God give him victory, also sent on the same occasion messages to the U.S. and Russian Presidents, the co-sponsors of the peace conference on the Middle East. His majesty also sent individual messages to the presidents and the prime ministers of the countries which are currently members of the Security Council.

In his messages, his majesty urged the U.S. President and the leaders of the member countries of the Security Council to take initiatives which might lead Israel to retract its decision, in order to create optimism in the peace process and revive the initial peace aspirations that were evident at the White House ceremony when the desire for peace on the part of both Palestinians and Israelis was reiterated.

In his messages to the U.S. and Russian Presidents, His Majesty reiterated the necessity for all efforts to be exerted by all peace-loving forces to save the peace.

His majesty added that Israeli-Palestinians relations are under great strain following Israel's decision to confiscate Arab land in East Jerusalem to build Israeli settlements. This strain might have serious repercussions on the whole Middle East region, which has been a

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hotbed of tension for over half a century. It was expected that the peace process between the PLO and Israel would be the springboard which might end this tension and bring about a new era of good-neighborliness, coexistence, and security.

His majesty indicated, furthermore, that the Israeli measure might torpedo the Palestinian track of the peace process. This track is liable to be wrecked and torpedoed by antipeace forces from within Palestine itself or Israel, he stated. Also, peace on the Syrian-Israeli track and peace on the Lebanese-Israeli track have yet to be find the proper direction.

His majesty recalled Morocco's efforts for the past two decades with all the parties to the Arab-Israeli dispute, its endeavors to bridge their opposing views, and its advice to initiate direct negotiations as means for bringing about a just and comprehensive peace. His majesty added: We have, from the outset of the Madrid Conference and the Oslo declaration, closely followed the process of the negotiations and have advised the two parties to be realistic and responsible in order to allow the negotiations to reach their conclusion by bringing peace, which we have sponsored and blessed, to the region.

Today, we are appealing to you, in our capacity as OIC chairman and chairman of the Jerusalem Committee, and out of our fear for fate of the newly born peace process, given the atmosphere prevailing over the peace talks, which, to say the least, has been very disturbing and fraught with bad omens.

His majesty added: The Israeli and the Palestinian sides had agreed publicly on an agenda for the negotiation of the future of Jerusalem within three years from the beginning of the transitional period. This agreement should require both sides not to prejudice the result of the negotiations and take unilateral measures which suits its schemes when it comes to the future of Jerusalem.

His majesty reiterated that Israel's decision to confiscate Arab land in East Jerusalem for the building of settlements is a typical example of such an unilateral desire by Israel, in addition to the fact that it is flagrant violation of international norms.

At the opening session of the emergency meeting of the Arab League's ministerial conference, Abdellatif Filali, prime minister and foreign minister, read out the text of the messages sent by His Majesty King Hassan II to the Israeli prime minister.

The Moroccan delegation also circulated to the delegations present at the conference the text of the messages by his majesty the king to the U.S. and Russian Presidents, the co-sponsors of the peace process; to the leaders of the member countries of the Security Council; and to the Israeli prime minister.

Sudan

Rebels Take Hostages; Government Demands Release

EA0905091095 Khartoum SUNA in English 1724 GMT 8 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, May 8 (SUNA) — Bandits of the outlaws movement have intercepted a relief barge carrying relief supplies provided by World Food Programme (WFP) and UNICEF to the affected people in the south at Barboi town on Tonga-Fanjak corridor, the Foreign Ministry announced Monday [8 May].

A statement issued by the ministry said the outlaws bandits kidnapped a WFP staff member, an Italian national, and demanded the barge to head to Neyal Wak area and unload its relief cargo in return for his release.

While the barge was on its way to the area to where it was ordered to go it was again intercepted by another group of outlaws movement's faction of Riak Machar who kidnapped another official of the WFP, a Vietnamese national, the Foreign Ministry said.

The ministry strongly denounced this barbaric action, which is considered as a violation of Operation Lifeline agreement and the cease-fire declaration, saying it aims at impeding the international community's efforts to relieve innocent citizens and endangering the lives of international relief workers.

The Sudanese Government demands the outlaws to immediately release the abducted international officials and stop such actions which hamper the flow of relief to the innocent citizens, the statement said.

The Foreign Ministry also called on the United Nations and the international community to denounce the outlaws movement and exercise pressure on it to free the kidnapped international officials.

Imminent Release of Hostages Reported

LD0905081795 Rome RAI Televideo Teletext in Italian 0746 GMT 9 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The two UN officers, one from Italy and one from the Philippines, who were kidnapped by the rebels in Sudan, are alive and well. They will be freed as soon as possible. This was said by the UN World Food Program at its Rome headquarters.

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The two officers, Mirko Rizzuto and Romi De Los Santos, were kidnapped last Sunday [7 May] with two of their Sudanese assistants while they were sailing along the Nile on a barge carrying 70 [metric] tons of food aid for refugees.

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Bahrain

Minister Discusses Military Issues, Peace Process

JN0705123595 Manama WAKH in Arabic
0938 GMT 7 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Manama, 7 May (WAKH) — Staff Lieutenant General Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Ahamd Al Khalifah, defense minister and deputy commander in chief of the Bahraini Defense Force, has said that collective security on the level of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states is an indivisible whole. He said that GCC meetings have always stressed the need to boost this security arrangement.

In an interview with the Bahraini newspaper AL-AYYAM published today, Lt. Gen. Khalifah said that Bahrain believes security is a common concern. He said that this is Bahrian's perspective both on the GCC and the Arab levels, and falls within the Arab League Charter. He said that this perspective has a wider scope under the United Nations as it was proved during the Kuwait liberation war. He added that the unity of Gulf and Arab security should be underscored.

He noted that joint exercises with the armies of sister and friendly states have not stopped over the past few years. He added that these exercises aim to gain experience and upgrade the fighting skills of air, land, and naval forces. He expressed the hope that these exercises will continue to be held.

Regarding the Gulf military cooperation charter, he said that if the GCC states decide to develop this charter, then this is a further step in this regard, although the current charter managed to realize its goals in terms of fostering military cooperation.

Asked if there are plans to conclude arms deals to support the three forces, the Bahraini defense minister said: The process of developing the Bahraini Defense Force is ongoing. However, no deals to purchase arms were concluded last year because Bahrain is keen to acquire arms commensurate with the country's geography, requirements, and the size and nature of the threats that may be posed against it.

Commenting on recent reports that Bahrain asked Russia to set up an air defense system, he said: Our present capabilities and future plans are sufficient to defend the country's airspace. In the meantime, there are no negotiations on this sort of system. Moreover, there is no need to launch such a project with the Russian Federation. However, there is cooperation with Russia and visits are being exchanged in order to discuss several projects. Any agreements that are be reached will be announced in due time.

The Bahraini defense minister paid tribute to the progress realized in the military industries of some Arab countries, like Saudi Arabia and Egypt. He pointed out that the GCC states are examining the possibility of developing current capabilities. He voiced the hope that the GCC states will form a nucleus for military industries in the coming years. He said that studies under consideration as to the GCC states' establishment of a joint military industry following the Saudi example in this area.

Responding to a question on the Middle East situation in light of the growth of the Israeli nuclear arsenal, the defense minister said: Bahrain has supported the peace process and it is still encouraging the continuation of this process. The Israelis are showing intransigence and attempting to make peace, particularly with Syria and Lebanon. To this end, they have acquired many nuclear warheads to apply pressure on these countries and force them to offer concessions.

He said: The Middle East region will not enjoy lasting peace given the buildup of the Israeli nuclear arsenal. He noted that international organizations are applying pressure on Arab countries while turning a blind eye to Israel. Peace cannot be realized under the Israeli policy of usurping Arab lands, he maintained.

He said he hopes that Israel will sign the nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] shortly, or at least take a positive step through drawing up a timetable or a schedule to sign the NPT.

Arab League Resolutions on Land Seizures Praised

LD0805130295 Riyadh SPA in English
1237 GMT 8 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Manama, May 8, SPA — The Bahraini cabinet has praised the resolutions adopted by the recent Arab League foreign ministers conference held in Cairo, regarding Israel's latest seizure of Arab lands in al-Quds.

The cabinet, which held its regular weekly session last night under the chairmanship of Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, the prime minister, expressed concern over the Israeli decision representing a clear violation of the principal declaration between the Israelis and the Palestinians and contravening with the principles of international convention. 'Such acts of Israel threaten the peace process in the Middle East and the efforts for establishing security and stability in the region,' the cabinet affirmed.

It called on the sponsors of the peace process in the Middle East and the international community to force Israel to rescind its decision and abide by the

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international principles and the spirit of the peace process in order to remove obstacles against the peace process.

Kuwait

Council of Ministers Holds Weekly Meeting

LD0705192595 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 7 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Council of Ministers held its weekly meeting this morning under the chairmanship of his highness the heir apparent and prime minister, Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah. After the meeting, 'Abd al-'Aziz Dakhil al-Dakhil, minister of state for cabinet affairs and planning minister, said that the council began the meeting by reviewing the results of the recent visit of the president of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and his delegation. [passage omitted]

The council welcomed the resolution adopted by the Arab League at its extraordinary meeting held in Cairo yesterday which condemned the Israeli government's decision to confiscate more Palestinian lands in and outside Jerusalem. Such a decision constitutes a challenge to the resolutions of the international legitimacy and a violation of the foundations and principles of the peace process based on the relevant Security Council resolutions.

Proceeding from the positive positions taken by the government of Barbados in support of Kuwait's just causes and in implementation of Kuwait's policy aimed at consolidating and expanding its relations with the friendly countries, the two governments have decided to establish diplomatic relations between their two countries.

The council also approved a draft decree inviting voters to elect the members of the municipal council [as heard] on Tuesday 6 June 1995. The council has decided to submit the decree to his highness the amir. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Meets U.S., Iranian Envoys

LD0805170195 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1519 GMT 8 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Shaykh Sabah today met separately the U.S. and Iranian ambassadors, Ryan Crocker and Gholamali San'ati respectively.

Shaykh Sabah indicated that he had reviewed with the U.S. ambassador the current debate at the UN conference on the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and the positions adopted by countries at the conference.

He also pointed out that he had examined with Crocker the latest development in the peace process in the Middle East and the means for boosting bonds of friendship between Kuwait and Washington.

Concerning his meeting with San'ati, Shaykh Sabah indicated that he had dwelt with him on the outcome of visits of senior Iranian officials to Kuwait and the steps taken to implement agreements that had been signed within the framework of the two countries' desire to bolster fraternal bonds and closer cooperation in all spheres.

Minister: 'Meeting Is Possible' on Constitution

LD0805213795 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1519 GMT 8 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait City, 8 May (KUNA) — Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, first deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, has reiterated in a statement here today that there is no serious division between the government and the National Assembly which warrants an emergency meeting.

Shaykh Sabah pointedly indicated that the meeting of the Six-Man Committee, which he chairs, with the Bureau of the National Assembly, which is chaired by the National Assembly Speaker Ahmad al-Sa'dun, is not subject to a certain time or certain circumstances; it could take place at any time to crystallize the concept of cooperation and understanding, which should be permanent, between the legislative and the executives powers.

Shaykh Sabah made his statement to KUNA to comment on press reports that there is a possibility for a meeting between the two powers to reach a compromise on the government's request from the Constitutional Court to give a ruling on the meaning of Article 17 of the Constitution.

Shaykh Sabah has reiterated, however, that there is no reason not to convene a meeting between the two sides at any time. "A meeting is possible in all circumstances whether there is an occasion for it or not," he added. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Iranian Pilgrims Fail To Hold Anti-U.S. Rallies

NC0805211095 Paris AFP in English 2009 GMT 8 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mecca, Saudi Arabia, May 8 (AFP)—Anti-US rallies which Iranian pilgrims pledged to stage here failed to materialise Monday [8 May] amid

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heavy Saudi security at the start of the annual Moslem pilgrimage.

Hundreds of Saudi policemen and special security forces patrolled the holy city of Mecca where two million Moslem pilgrims began the pilgrimage or hajj under a government ban on demonstrations.

In Mina, five kilometres (three miles) to the south, where pilgrims were to spend the night, "the situation is normal and there have been no incidents," a witness said.

Iranian delegates said the rallies could take place in Mina or alternatively in Mount 'Arafat, 21 kilometres (13 miles) east of Mecca, where pilgrims are to travel early Tuesday.

After repeated Iranian vows to hold rallies despite the ban by Saudi authorities, security forces have been on alert for the pilgrimage.

Saudi authorities have scattered the Iranian pilgrims throughout different camps and posted hundreds of police outside the headquarters of the head of the Iranian delegation, Sheykh Mohammad Mohammadi-Reyshari.

Iran's Sheykh Mohammad 'Ali Taskhiri, an aide to Reyshari, warned Monday that Iranians would hold anti-US rallies in their camps if they fail to make Saudi authorities lift the ban on demonstrations.

"We are sticking to our decision to protest, but if it's impossible, nobody can prevent us from fulfilling this duty in the camps" set aside for the 69,000 Iranian pilgrims, Taskhiri told AFP.

Iran insists the demonstration to denounce "pagans" is a duty, while Saudi religious leaders have backed the government's ban saying a rally during the pilgrimage would be heretical.

An Iranian delegate told AFP Sunday that Iranians were "determined to protest," but would drop their plans if the rally threatened a confrontation with Saudi police.

An outlawed Iranian demonstration in 1987 sparked clashes with security forces, leaving 402 people dead, including 275 Iranians, according to Saudi officials.

Reyshari warned Friday that Iranians would hold an anti-US rally on Saturday at one of the holy sites but one never took place. Another delegate said the rally would be held Monday if it did not take place on Saturday.

ART Denies Sale of Radio/TV Stations

JN0605115995 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 29 Apr 95 p 21

[Report by Muhammad al-Duhaym]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Arab Radio and Television [ART] has denied that it has sold any of its five stations to anybody, asserting that it has no intention to sell its stations.

In a statement, the ART said that as a result of strong coordination with His Highness Prince al-Walid Bin-Talal Bin-'Abd- al-'Aziz, in his capacity as a contributor to and a founding member of ART, his highness has been appointed coordinator and supervisor of the music channel, which transmits 12 hours daily.

The ART confirmed that a share of the Rotana [name as published] Audiovisual Company has been sold to His Highness Prince al-Walid Bin-Talal, with a view to strengthening relations between ART and Rotana. The statement expects coordination to increase in view of his highness being a founding member of ART and a shareholder in Rotana. Through the Arab Media Company, the ART has become Rotana's largest shareholder. This will help establish a strategic alliance between the two companies, especially since Rotana is one of the largest Arab companies specializing in the production of audio-visual songs.

United Arab Emirates

Government Works To Convene UN Security Council

JN0805154495 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1324 GMT 8 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Abu Dhabi, 8 May (WAKH)—In coordination with Morocco, the United Arab Emirates [UAE] has begun to work for an urgent UN Security Council session to discuss Israel's expropriation of Palestinian lands in East Jerusalem.

The Emirates News Agency said the UAE Foreign Ministry sent a memorandum to Ambassador Muhammad Samhan, UAE's permanent UN representative, asking him to coordinate with Morocco's permanent representative on contacting the Security Council's president about holding an urgent session.

This measure comes in implementation of the Arab League Council's resolution passed in an extraordinary meeting held in Cairo the day before yesterday, Saturday. This resolution entrusts the UAE, as the chairman of the Arab League's current session, and Morocco, as the chairman of the Jerusalem Committee, with requesting an urgent Security Council session.

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Yemen

Minister Receives Iraqi Message on Turkish Border

JN0805192595 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today received brother Dr. Muhsin Khalil Ibrahim, ambassador of fraternal Iraq in Sanaa, who handed him a message from the Iraqi Government on the current situation in northern Iraq and the Turkish statements on border redemarcation.

Brother al-Iryani asserted to the Iraqi ambassador that the Yemeni Government denounces such statements and firmly adheres to Iraq's safety, territorial integrity, and complete sovereignty over its territories.

Defense Council Issues Statement on War Anniversary

JN0505204295 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 May 95

[Statement from the the National Defense Council marking the first anniversary of the "secessionist conspiracy against the homeland"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] O masses of our great Yemeni people: On this day a year ago and at 2010 on Wednesday, 4 May 1994, the traitorous secessionists, led by the Yemeni Socialist Party and its allies of the renegade, secessionist, and treasonous forces, launched a comprehensive war against our Yemeni people to carry out their plot against the homeland by disrupting it and destroying its dear unity, a great strategic goal that was achieved on 22 May 1990, as a fruit of our people's long struggle and the great sacrifices they offered so the Yemeni family could reunite after its fragmentation and so the sun of unity could rise over all the territories of the one Yemeni homeland. [passage omitted]

O masses of our Yemeni people: We recall the incidents of this painful anniversary not to renew wounds and open the files which have been closed since the announcement of the general amnesty law, and since the leadership stressed its eagerness to spread the spirit of tolerance, confidence, love, and cohesion among the sons of our people out of its sense of national responsibility and out of its awareness that there is no victor and no vanquished. The victor is the homeland, its unity, and its prosperous future, God willing. We recall those incidents to conclude lessons from the disaster of war and secession, to explore the future, and to build a new Yemen, which is the responsibility of all the sons of the people. [passage omitted]

Our Yemeni people, who have been refined by experience and who have emerged stronger from all the ordeals and challenges, are determined more than ever to adhere to their unity and to achieve their desired goals of achieving progress and building a new, strong, and prosperous Yemen, God willing, under the canopy of unity, democracy, and constitutional legitimacy. The fourth of May will also remain a symbol of sacrifice and steadfastness for the sake of great national principles and the homeland. Mercy to our righteous martyrs of the revolution, unity, and democracy. God's peace be upon you.

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Saddam Husayn Cables Chirac on Election Victory

JN0805151895 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1344 GMT 8 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 8 May (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has sent congratulatory cable to Jacques Chirac on his election as president of the French Republic.

Following is the text of the cable:

His Excellency Jacques Chirac, elected president of the French Republic, Paris:

I am delighted to extend to you heartfelt congratulations on your election as president of the French Republic.

On this occasion, I would like to recall our joint action two decades ago when we worked together to build the distinguished relations between Iraq and France, proceeding from faith in our two countries' independent national role, each according to its capabilities and position. Those relations reached the highest degree of fruitful cooperation in all fields of life in the service of our two countries' legitimate national interests, the cause of peace, and sound relations between nations.

We still view the relations between Iraq and France with the same importance. We believe in the same bases and principles which constitute, in our view, a sound and necessary basis for equitable bilateral relations between peoples and states. Such relations should be based on mutual respect, each side's balanced view of the other party's legitimate interests, respect for independence, and noninterference in domestic affairs.

After your assumption of power in France, we look forward to reviving relations between our countries on the same bases and with the same vitality in the service of our two countries' legitimate interests and the cause of peace, security, development, and justice in our region and the world. I emphasize to you our readiness to cooperate with you and to do all that would help you achieve this in accordance with the same spirit, bases, and principles which characterized our relations and joint action in the past.

I wish you personally continued health and success in leading your country. I wish the French people further progress and prosperity.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic of Iraq, Baghdad, 8 May 1995

Official Spokesman Comments on Clinton's Remarks

JN0805143495 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1220 GMT 8 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 8 May (INA)—An official spokesman for the Foreign Ministry has stressed that the U.S. President must be extremely deluded if he believes that leveling false charges against the victim of his government's aggression may conceal the horrible crime that his administration continues to commit.

The official spokesman was commenting on last week's anti-Iraq statements by U.S. President Bill Clinton. In a statement to INA, the spokesman said that the U.S. President meaningfully chose the World Jewish Congress in New York to assail Iraq and its people, describing Iraq as an "outlaw state."

The official spokesman said: We are not concerned here to defend ourselves or to clear Iraq of the charge, for Iraq does not need a certificate of good conduct from the U.S. President and his likes who are involved in a continuous series of organized international crimes against many states and peoples.

The spokesman added that Iraq is a vanguard advocate of promoting international relations on the basis of justice, equitability, and mutual respect. This is a known and well-established fact among fair international quarters, within the Nonaligned Movement, and on Arab and Islamic levels. On the other hand, the U.S. criminal policies need not be proved, as there are clear examples in most regions of the world.

The official spokesman stressed that the people of Iraq in particular and other peoples of the world, along with good and knowledgeable quarters inside the United States itself, know well the extent of the crime that the United States has committed and continues to commit against Iraq since the start of its barbaric aggression. This aggression has reached the zenith of crime by destroying the Iraqi people's vital civilian installations and the use of forbidden weapons, such as enriched uranium, for example.

The U.S. Administration brazenly continues to obstruct any move by the UN Security Council to lift the unjust blockade and end the crime of preventing a nation with a deep-seated civilization from using its own resources to provide food, medicine, and all requirements of human, comprehensive, and legitimate development.

The official spokesman stressed that military interference, armed aggression, and multifaceted aggression against other peoples and nations are major tools for the implementation of the U.S. administrations' hostile

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policies. The spokesman noted that those administrations are influenced by suspect circles that pay no attention to the American people's legitimate interests or to any constructive, stable, and friendly relations with other peoples of the world.

The spokesman added that this abnormal behavior has exacerbated the situation within the U.S. society itself, where certain segments have become largely influential, such as the Zionists, gangsters, drug traffickers, drug addicts, and slave traders through collusion with the ruling quarters in Washington, which sponsors, finances, and trains inside the United States various terrorist organizations operating against other peoples. This is true of organizations like the terrorist Me'ir Kahane organization, the Ibrahimi Mosque slaughterer Baruch Goldstein group, and many other groups working against nations resisting disgraceful subservience to the rulers of the United States.

Concluding his statement, the official spokesman said: We in Iraq advise the U.S. President to bravely rise to the level of responsibility dictated by his official post and by his people's true and legitimate interests, which he cannot serve without respecting other peoples' rights and interests and adopting the principle of constructive dialogue and voluntary understanding, rather than extortion, terrorism, and aggression.

'Udayy Reportedly Wounded in Assassination Attempt

NC0805155795 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1445 GMT 8 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Criminal 'Udayy, son of tyrant Saddam, has been subjected to two assassination attempts at the hands of resistance heroes inside Iraq. The first was on 15 March and the second on 1 April, according to our sources in Baghdad.

The same sources added that the first attempt took place when the criminal already mentioned was heading to his private farm in the area of (Jadiriyah) in the company of 17 bodyguards. The resistance fighters set an ambush for him near the farm. When the motorcade reached the main gate of the farm, the mujahidin opened fire on it. As a result, criminal 'Udayy was slightly wounded in his hand and leg. Criminal Sufyan al-Hajji, one of his bodyguards and a close fried of his, was killed. The same sources reported that the mujahidin had to keep silent about the operation to prepare for another one against 'Udayy.

The sources added that mujahidin prepared themselves for carrying out a second operation. On 1 April word came to them that criminal 'Udayy was going to meet with members of the Olympic Committee at al-Mansur Hotel. However, the criminal did not show up at the meeting on time. A clash took place between the mujahidin and his bodyguards, during which one of his bodyguards was killed while the mujahidin returned safely to their bases.

Reinforcements Deployed Around Oil Installations

NC0805154795 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1445 GMT 8 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tyrant Saddam's regime has sent reinforcements to beef up his military units stationed in some strategic areas in the Governorate of Karkuk. Sources report that among the units the regime has deployed are armor and artillery battalions, which took up positions near oil installations in Karkuk last week. The reason for the regime's deployment of these troops is not yet clear.

It is worth noting that Saddam's regime earlier sent some al-'Abid Troops of the Republican Guards to Karkuk, where they took up positions in Khalid camp and deployed their heavy and medium weapons in the direction of residential areas in the city for fear of outbreaks of antiregime activity following its rejection of Resolution 968.

Opposition Denounces Demirel on Border Modification

NC0805160795 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 8 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Unified Iraqi National Congress [UINC] has denounced Turkish President Suleyman Demirel's statement that calls for modification of the Iraqi-Turkish borders and his allegation that the Iraqi city of Mosul belongs to Turkey. In its statement, the UINC stressed that the Iraqi people are concerned about every inch of their territory and will hold tightly on to their territorial integrity and national sovereignty. Further, it stated that Turkey would not have made these claims had it not been for Saddam's domination of Iraq and his reckless policy, which harmed Iraq's unity and future. The UINC statement said that the Turkish president's cal! for annexing Iraqi territory to Turkey runs counter to the [words indistinct], the UN Charter and violates the policy of good neighborliness and the history of Mosul. The UINC called for establishing balanced and equal relations with Turkey, respect for the national sovereignty of both countries, nonintervention in domestic affairs, and giving up this unfortunate trend.

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Kurdish Council Condemns Remarks

JN0805121095 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1015 GMT 8 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 8 May (INA)—The Executive Council of the Autonomous Region of Kurdistan has condemned the statements made by Turkish President Suleyman Demirel, in which he called for redrawing the Turkish-Iraqi borders.

While chairing a council session today to discuss the statements made by the Turkish president, Ja'far 'Abd-al-Karim al-Barzanji said that these statements constitute flagrant interference in Iraq's domestic affairs and reflect hostile sentiments as well as expansionist ambitions fed by imperialist and Zionist forces. These statements, al-Barzanji added, are aimed at undermining the unity and sovereignty of Iraq and its people, be they Arabs or Kurds.

The chairman of the Executive Council went on to say: While strongly condemning these statements, the people of Kurdistan pledge to His Excellency President Saddam Husayn that they will rally behind his wise leadership in order to thwart all Zionist plots and so that Iraq, from Zakho to al-Faw, may remain an impregnable bastion immune to the enemies, covetous parties, and their agents and paid lackeys.

Further on Kurdish Reaction

JN0705180695 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1705 GMT 7 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 7 May (INA) — The Legislative Council of the Autonomous Region of Kurdistan has strongly denounced Turkish President Suleyman Demirel's statements in which he called for redrawing the border between Iraq and Turkey, citing the pretext of terrorism.

In a statement to INA, Baha'-al-Din Ahmad, head of the council, said these statements, as well as the suspect actions in the Autonomous Region, constitute a flagrant violation of Iraq's sovereignty and the principles of the United Nations and international law. These statements and actions also constitute blatant interference in Iraq's domestic affairs and are meant to distract attention from Turkey's internal problems. They are also a lowly attempt to cozy up to the United States at the expense of the Turkish people.

Baha'-al-Din Ahmad urged the sons of Kurdistan to be vigilant and cautious so as to abort imperialist, Zionist, and reactionary schemes that seek to undermine Iraq and infringe on its sovereignty and national unity.

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Further Reactions to Jerusalem Land Expropriation

Jordan, Morocco Send Warning Messages

TA0805181695 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 8 May 95

[Report by political correspondent Gadi Sukenik]

[FBIS Translated Text] Jordan is threatening to disrupt its ties with Israel if the land seizures in Jerusalem are not revoked. This emergency message was relayed to the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem today by Jordan's ambassador to Israel.

Morocco's King Hassan went even further, and in a private message he sent the prime minister, he said that if the land confiscations are not revoked, the move will have what he called an explosive impact. This brings Arab pressure on Israel on this issue to a peak. Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik has more details:

[Sukenik] The Jordanian foreign minister ordered his ambassador to Israel, Marwan al-Mu'ashshir, to go immediately to the Foreign Ministry and report on Jordan's emergency decision. The ambassador requested a meeting with the foreign minister, but as he was in Cairo, Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin received al-Mu'ashshir and then reported to the ministry's top echelons. Beilin said the Jordanian Government views the Israeli Government's action with gravity. The ambassador stated that if Israel does not retract the land confiscation decision — and I quote — Jordan will take action in all matters related to its ties with Israel. The Foreign Ministry is very concerned, because it is not clear what action the Jordanians will take: Will they recall their ambassador in protest or possibly freeze talks with Israel?

For the first time, Morocco's King Hassan sent a personal message, via the Israeli liaison office in Rabat, to Rabin. The message was handed to Rabin three days ago. Reading from the full text I received, here are some quotes: As president of the Organization of the Islamic Conference and president of the al-Quds conference, we — meaning himself — view with gravity the confiscation of Arab land in Jerusalem, which has had an explosive impact on the entire world. I see the grave outcome: The land expropriations have created a deadlock. It is true that the elections are close, Hassan said to Rabin, and they are important to all political figures, but that does not legitimize such a dangerous step, which so deserves denunciation. I strongly protest, Hassan wrote.

Our policymakers are concerned. The land seizure issue is in Rabin's hands. He decided on it, so he cannot put the blame on anybody but himself. He and the government will have to deal with the outcome.

In reference to the U.S. Senate's proposed bill to transfer the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem, there is no doubt that there are behind-the-scenes contacts between Rabin, Peres, and the U.S. Administration. Both sides are convinced that it is a bad decision or, perhaps, not bad in itself but badly timed, because it could — in the words of U.S. Ambassador Indyk — cause the peace process to blow up. They will try to coordinate positions in order to forestall the decision, but there is no certainty that they will succeed.

Both Rabin and Peres have been forced to say it is a welcome move, because they believe it would be unpopular to say it is badly timed. All the sides know that if implemented, it will be de facto recognition of West Jerusalem as the capital of Jerusalem and not recognition of Jerusalem as the united capital of Israel. That is still far off.

Rabin: Arabs Will Not Cut Ties

TA0905054995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 9 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says he does not believe Jordan and Morocco will cut ties with Israel over the decision to expropriate land in eastern Jerusalem. Commenting after formal protests from these two countries, the Israeli prime minister noted that the PLO had not stopped the peace talks; why, therefore, should Jordan and Morocco be more extreme, he asked. Rabin was talking to Israeli correspondents at the end of his current visit to the United States. He is due back home today, after visiting the family of Alisa Flato, the American student who died in the Kfar Darom terrorist attack. [passage omitted]

The ambassadors in Israel of the troika, the three countries that currently head the European Union, have also lodged a protest. The ambassadors of France, Germany, and Spain met this past weekend with Foreign Ministry Deputy Director General Yo'av Biran and appealed to Israel to change its mind. The troika are due to send a special envoy to Israel in the next few days to discuss Israel's proposal for EU monitors to supervise Palestinian elections.

Peres: 62 Percent of Land Jewish-Owned

TA0905055295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 9 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Police Minister Moshe Shahal is due to meet with Palestinian Authority member Faysal al-Husayni in Jerusalem today in an attempt to resolve the dispute over land expropriation in the eastern part of the city. They will review plans to determine who owns the 53 hectares, or 130 acres, of property.

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Foreign Minister Peres discussed the issue in his talks in Cairo yesterday with Egyptian and Palestinian officials. Peres, who returned to Israel last night, detailed Israel's position, saying that most of the land being expropriated belongs to Jews.

[Begin Peres recording] First of all, we are not talking about confiscating land from the hands of one owner to the hands of another owner. What is actually happening is that, in order to continue buildings which are necessary for a living city, the municipality has to zone some new places, so as to permit the building of it.

Until now and over the last several months — the last year or so — 550 dunams were zoned for building. They call it confiscation; it's not actually to confiscate, but really to permit the building on it. Out of the 550 dunams in question, 62 percent belong to Jewish owners, not at all to Arabs; so, there is a mistake to think that we have confiscated all the land from Arabs. In 9.5 percent, the owners are unknown, and 27 percent are Arab owners.

On the 550 dunams, we intend to permit also the construction of 400 flats for Arab residents of Jerusalem. So, again, the political flavor of it was, in my judgment, misunderstood. And furthermore, we recognized fully the need for answering the needs of both communities — namely, the Jewish and Arab community — and we shall listen very carefully to the needs of both, of the Arab citizens of Jerusalem. We feel as responsible for their future and wellbeing as for our own, and we don't want to discriminate — surely not on any national or religious lines.

There is an informal way of checking misunderstandings. I am afraid that this time it wasn't used properly, and I hope in the future we shall find the ways and means how to overcome it. [end recording]

PLO official Sa'ib 'Urayqat said Faysal al-Husayni will bring records to his meeting with Shahal today, proving that the land in East Jerusalem is owned by Palestinians.

Ministry: Peres Given Wrong Data

TA0905075295 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 9 May 95

[Report by Moshe Hakohen]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Foreign Ministry sources have announced that while Minister Ben-Eli'ezer told the cabinet on Sunday [7 May] at a meeting held just prior to the foreign minister's departure for Cairo that 62 percent of all recently expropriated Jerusalem land was owned by Jews, in reality less than 20 percent of the land belonged to Jews, almost 50 percent was Arab-owned, and the rest belonged in the unsettled-ownership category. The data divulged by Ben-Eli'ezer, Foreign Ministry sources said, was a misleading statistical median of the recent data on the expropriation of 535 dunams in the Ramot and Gilo zones and the major expropriation carried out in southern Jerusalem's Har Homa area two years ago, where 75 percent of the land was Jewish-owned.

Shim'on Peres used this data in the Cairo talks, but the error was exposed by the Palestinians. As a result, Palestinian delegate Sa'ib 'Urayqat called Peres a gifted liar. [passage omitted]

Further Expropriation Plans Disclosed

TA0905080595 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 9 May 95 p 3

[Report by Hemi Shalev]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer said last night that he was the one who had decided on the expropriation of land in Jerusalem and that in the future land belonging to both Arabs and Jews would be confiscated for housing purposes.

Ben-Eli'ezer added that 30,000 housing units would be built in Jerusalem over the next five years and that land for that purpose would be expropriated according to needs. Among other things, he disclosed the upcoming expropriation of 1,200 dunams of Arab land in the area known as "Sha'ar Hamizrah," between French Hill and Pisgat Ze'ev.

The construction minister went on to say that what is at stake is "a battle over the fate of Jerusalem" and that in his opinion nobody has the right to tell Israel what to do in Jerusalem's sovereign territory. He asserted that the government is determined to pursue the peace process without any inhibitions. [passage omitted]

Senior Source on U.S. Embassy Move, Golan Pullback

TA0805161695 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 8 May 95

[Report by Sefi Hendler with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's entourage in Washington]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The prime minister is currently on his way to the U.S. Congress, where he will meet with two key figures on Capitol Hill: House Speaker Newt Gingrich and Senate majority leader Bob Dole, the two men spearheading the move to relocate the U.S. Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem.

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Prior to the prime minister's departure for Capitol Hill, a senior Israeli source said that Israel does not want to be drawn into the line of fire between the Democratic President and the Republican Congress on this issue. In a briefing to U.S. journalists, the senior source said that no Israeli Government could object to legislation pertaining to the relocation of the embassy to Jerusalem. Nevertheless, he added that he would not like to be involved in political legislation.

Asked whether the Likud was behind the move on Capitol Hill, the senior source replied: I can only guess; I have no proof. He nevertheless recalled that such involvement had taken place in the past, as in the case of the pressure against deploying U.S. troops on the Golan. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1500 GMT on 8 May adds: "On talks with Syria, the source said President al-Asad will never make peace with Israel if even part of the Golan remains in Israeli hands."

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1500 GMT on 8 May quotes the senior source as saying that "Iran is the patron of terror, and Saudi Arabia pays protection money to everybody. The source went on to say that the Palestinians will receive less than a state in the West Bank."]

Rabin, Clinton Talks on Syrian Track Detailed

TA0905095795 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 9 May 95 pp A1, A10

["Exclusive" report by Aluf Ben and 'Aqiva Eldar in Washington]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Washington — In their meeting at the White House two days ago, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin called on U.S. President Bill Clinton to bring pressure to bear on Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to soften his positions in the talks with Israel. "In their current state, the negotiations are leading nowhere," Rabin said.

The prime minister asserted his categorical opposition to the Syrian demand to decide on the principle of "equal" security arrangements on both sides of the border and said that he would not agree to any compromises on the issue. "We have never conducted negotiations with an Arab party based on predetermined principles. Let it be clear: Equality, or anything resembling equality, is totally out of the question."

At the same time, Rabin showed flexibility in his proposals concerning the resumption of the talks between Israeli and Syrian military officers and agreed to a formula that would limit the geographical boundaries of the security arrangements and their encroachment on Syrian sovereignty. He acceded to the Americans' request to limit Israel's demands in the security sphere and to no longer demand a cutback in the size of the Syrian Army, demilitarization, and Israeli monitoring deep in Syrian territory. According to Israeli sources, "the Americans have everything they need to bring about the resumption of the military talks."

Rabin lashed out at the Syrian president, telling Clinton: "Al- Asad makes impossible demands, does not propose anything in return, and after calling off the negotiations last December, demanded to be rewarded in the form of substantial concessions in exchange for his agreement on procedural changes."

Rabin analyzed at length the motives behind the Syrian president's conduct, asserting that "al-Asad must show that he received from Israel more than Egyptian President al-Sadat did, either in terms of the demarcation of the border, the security arrangements, or the duration of the withdrawal. He needs something that will visibly provide him with an alibi for the 18 years in which he failed to follow in al-Sadat's footsteps."

The prime minister also voiced his opposition to the U.S. bridging proposals and told Clinton that he wants to prevent a situation whereby "the Syrians think the Americans are delivering Israel." The prime minister also objected to the U.S. bridging proposals pertaining to specific clauses to avoid setting a precedent. Rabin thus rejected the idea raised by the Americans to put forth their own compromise proposal with regard to the principles of the security arrangements. The draft of the principles of the security arrangements has been discussed by the Israeli and Syrian ambassadors in Washington in consultation with the U.S. mediator, but the Americans have not presented their own draft to the sides.

A senior source said that "the visit was meant to jostle the Americans. There is a paradox here: On the one hand Syria has no assets, is in no condition to wage a military struggle, does not have the Soviet Union behind it, and has a limited alliance with Iran. On the other hand, Syria cannot be pressured because al-Asad can live with the status quo." [passage omitted]

Rabin assured Clinton that Israel "is willing to present formulas which will make clear that we are talking about a reasonable level of security arrangements." Israeli sources said that "we will no longer raise wild demands to monitor the deployment of the army deep in Syrian territory. After all, we are the side that is seriously interested in security arrangements."

After the meeting with the U.S. President, Rabin said: "We sought to clarify the limit of our ability with regard

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to the security arrangements at this stage of the negotiations. I attach great importance to it since the security arrangements are the key issue in the negotiations with the Syrians." According to him, "there is room for equality [shivyoniyut] in the security arrangements in the peace treaty in general, but not on all issues. The main bone of contention is in the geographical aspect, on which our position is clear, and we have no intention of making any concessions."

A senior Israeli source later said in a briefing to U.S. journalists: "Israel will not agree to Syria's current demands, but I hope the talks will resume. We will see." [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 9 May publishes on page 3 a report by Washington correspondent Avino'am Bar-Yosef, which adds: "Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin gave the U.S. Administration an amended draft recapping Israel's positions on the security arrangements in the negotiations with Syria.

["Sources in Washington told our correspondent that the new draft does not contain any far-reaching changes compared with Israel's original positions. Nevertheless, the sources pointed out, Rabin decided to embrace the principle of equality on the condition that it applies to the nature of the security arrangements between the two countries rather than to the width of the demilitarized and thinned-out zones on both sides of the border.

["According to the Israeli proposal, Rabin will agree to a Syrian military presence in the early-warning stations to be built on Israeli territory, but will demand that the area to be demilitarized in Syria be much wider than the symbolic area that will be demilitarized on the Israeli side."]

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Israeli Envoy Sees 'No Crisis' in Relations

TA0905075995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 9 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Israeli Ambassador to Jordan Shim'on Shamir says there is no crisis in the relations with Jordan, merely disagreements between two countries that are in the process of tightening their ties. In an interview with Qol Yisra'el this morning, Ambassador Shamir said that while Israel must not discount the problem created by its decision to expropriate Jerusalem land, it should not exaggerate its impact.

[Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 9 May publishes on pages A1 and A10 a report by Yerah Tal, Aluf Ben, and 'Aqiva Eldarof, which adds: "Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin last night denied reports that the message relayed by Jordanian Ambassador Marwan al-Mu'ashshir contained a threat to freeze relations with Israel. According to him, it was a harsh message, but it did not contain any threat with regard to Israeli-Jordanian relations and the peace treaty signed by the two countries."

[The report goes on to say that "Beilin would not divulge what he told the Jordanian ambassador in response, but that it has been learned that in an internal Foreign Ministry debate he had spoken harshly against the expropriation of land in Jerusalem and stated that the decision, its timing in particular, was been very unfortunate. He said that the prime minister ought to either freeze or rescind the decision to confiscate land belonging to Arabs."]

Minister Yosi Sarid told our correspondent this morning that the government had erred. He believes that rather than revoke the land expropriation decision, Israel should shelve it. Minister Sarid said, however, that in view of Arab threats and international pressure to revoke the decision, he felt uneasy voicing his view.

Knesset Member Dan Meridor called on the government to repudiate the international pressure and to step up construction in Jerusalem. He further urged the government to improve the infrastructure in Jerusalem locations inhabited by Arab residents in order to show that coexistence is possible. [passage omitted]

Paper Reports Status of Relations With Syria

JN0805191995 Amman AL-BILAD in Arabic 10 May 95 p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-BILAD has learned that the Syrian-Jordanian differences, which are preventing the exchange of ambassadors between the two countries, were discussed between Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti and Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' during the meetings on the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty held in New York last week.

Our sources said al-Kabariti requested al-Shar' to nominate a Syrian ambassador to Amman to replace the charge d'affaires, so Jordan can nominate an ambassador to Damascus to succeed the late Ahmad al-'Adayilah. Al-Shar', however, preferred to keep things as they are.

Within the same context, information revealed by well-informed sources has affirmed that this tension will be illustrated in the coming period by the two countries being content with charge d'affaires without appointing ambassadors. The sources said it is likely that both parties will not officially announce such a measure. If such an announcement is made, it will indicate declared differences and conflicts between the two countries, which will not happen.

Replying to a question by AL-BILAD, a responsible source at the Jordanian Foreign Ministry said the mechanism of dealings among states stipulates that each state has the right to reject or accept any nominated ambassador. He added: Jordan has thus far not exercised this right, so why this clamor?

Referring to our question about the possibility of reducing the level of diplomatic representation due to the tense Jordanian-Syrian relations, the source, who preferred anonymity, said that, to begin with, inter-Arab relations are not that momentous and are not up to the desired efficiency, contrary to what they used to be in the past. Our relationship with Syria is not lukewarm or tense, and we have much amity and respect for the Syrian leadership. Moreover, the appointment of an ambassador is not done overnight, he added.

Asked whether the recent visit to Damascus by the Jordanian opposition parties and the warm reception accorded to them by the Syrian Government have disturbed bilateral relations, the source said: These parties went to Damascus on their own and they are licensed parties whose views were identical with those of the Syrian Government at that time. These identical views, however, may not last, he added.

Despite the affirmations by this source, other sources recently told us that there were Syrian suggestions to Jordan that Syria does not wish to exchange ambassadors with Jordan and will be content with keeping the charge d'affaires.

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Vietnamese President Le Duc Anh Visits Damascus

Addresses Dinner Banquet

JN0505110295 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 5 May 95

[Speech by Vietnamese President Le Duc Anh at a dinner banquet hosted in his honor by President Hafiz al-Asad at the People's Palace in Damascus on 4 May — read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency Esteemed President Hafiz al-Asad, senior state, government, and Arab Socialist Ba'th Party leaders, ladies and gentlemen: In the name of the leadership of the state and party, and on behalf of the Vietnamese people and members of the accompanying delegation, it pleases me to express to your excellency and to the Syrian people our heartfelt thanks and gratitude for the good feelings and hospitality accorded to us since the first minute of our arrival in valiant and beautiful Syria. This expresses the firm relations between our two peoples throughout the past half a century, beginning with our two countries' struggle to liberate ourselves from the yoke of old colonialism.

As an intimate friend of the Syrian people, the Vietnamese people continuously follow with extreme interest the heroic struggle being waged by the Syrian people to achieve and entrench national independence. We highly appreciate the great achievements made by the Syrian people under the leadership of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, led by your excellency, in building and developing the country. We also value Syria's efficient contribution to the world peoples' common struggle for peace, national independence, democracy, and social development. Vietnam, government and people, resolutely and firmly supports the struggle of the Syrian people and the other Arab peoples, including the Palestinian people, to regain the occupied Arab territories and to restore their basic national rights. We welcome the current peace process in the Middle East based on UN Security Council Resolution 242 and 338 with the aim of reaching a just and comprehensive solution to the Middle East crisis, which guarantees the interests of the parties concerned.

A day ago, the Vietnamese people happily and proudly celebrated the 20th anniversary of liberating southern Vietnam in full and of reuniting the country, especially since this was a great victory achieved by the sacrifices of millions of the sons of the Vietnamese people, and through support and aid from all friends in the world, including the friendly Syrian people. On this occasion, in the name of the Vietnamese party, government, and people, it pleases me to express to the Syrian leadership and people, under your excellency, our heartfelt thanks and gratitude for that support and aid. I am certain that the cordial and official visit by a highly-placed Vietnamese delegation to Syria will lay new foundations to promote the relations of friendship and cooperation between our two countries in all fields, particularly in the economic and trade fields, in the service of our two peoples, and peace, stability, friendship, and cooperation among peoples.

In an atmosphere of happiness and delight, I kindly request your excellency, and the ladies and gentlemen to drink a toast. We wish the Syrian people, under your leadership, further achievements toward defending independence and building a prosperous country. I also wish the relations of friendship between the Vietnamese and Syrian peoples further development and progress. Let us drink a toast to His Excellency Hafiz al-Asad, all the honorable guests, and audience. Thank you.

Says Visit Opens 'New Chapter'

JN0705161295 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 7 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Vietnamese President Le Duc Anh, his wife, and the accompanying delegation left Damascus at 1000 today after a four-day visit to Syria. President Hafiz al-Asad led those who saw him off at Damascus International Airport. [passage omitted]

President al-Asad received a cable from Vietnamese President Le Duc Anh on ending his visit to Syria. The cable reads:

While departing beautiful Syria, it gives me pleasure to express to your excellency, to the leaders of the Arab Republic of Syria, and to the Syrian people our sincere thanks and gratitude for the warm hospitality and reception and for the good sentiments, replete with solidarity and friendship, which you have demonstrated to me in person and to the senior delegation of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam during our visit to your esteemed country.

Despite the briefness of our visit, it opened a new chapter, filled with promises, in relations between our two countries. This visit also left in our hearts deep impressions that can never be forgotten about Syria and its people who have deep-rooted historic and civilized traditions, as well as warm hospitality.

I am fully confident that the Syrian people under your excellency's leadership will surely realize new great achievements in terms of building a strong and prosperous country. I wish your excellency continued good health. Please accept my profound appreciation and due respect.

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Radio: Rabin U.S. Trip Aims To Secure Embassy Move

JN0805185095 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1137 GMT 8 May 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: Upon leaving Israel for Washington, the Israeli prime minister said that he is carrying new ideas dealing with the peace process on the Syrian track. In reality, however, Rabin knows that any ideas he is carrying which are not based on relevant UN resolutions and do not incorporate a full withdrawal from the Golan cannot extricate the peace process from the impasse into which Israel has led it due to its intransigence and insistence on holding on to the territories and achieving its own brand of peace at the same time.

Despite this, Rabin carried with him to Washington a decision to confiscate land in occupied Arab Jerusalem — a decision that conflicts even with the flimsy Oslo agreement and that confirms to the U.S. Administration and the entire world that Israel is not capable of making peace and committing itself to the agreements it signs, weak and flimsy as they are.

Rabin's campaign in Washington focuses, above all, on convincing the U.S. Administration to transfer its Embassy to Jerusalem. Perhaps the decision to confiscate land in the Arab city of Jerusalem prior to the Israeli prime minister's visit to the United States is aimed at portraying this city as the unified capital of Israel, whose government can make any decision it wants about it, regardless of how much this decision violates international laws and norms, and showing that this decision is a domestic issue, in which no one in the world can interfere.

From this premise, it appears that the issue of Jerusalem and Israel's attempts to convince the United States to transfer its Embassy to it are the top priority of Rabin's visit to Washington, and not the peace process on the Syrian track. If Rabin's government is really serious in its efforts to achieve peace and if Rabin is truly carrying new ideas, then the issue would not have needed all this wasted time and effort over more than two and a half years. The UN resolutions, on which the Madrid conference was based, are clear. These resolutions call for a just and comprehensive peace based on a full withdrawal from the territories occupied by Israel during the June 1967 aggression. Moreover, these UN resolutions stress the impermissibility of occupying land by force.

The third point which Rabin went back to raising before leaving for Washington and during his presence there deals with secret talks with Syria. Rabin already knows that Syria has rejected such negotiations in the past and will continue to reject them in the future. The question here is: Why hold secret negotiations when the objective from the beginning is the noble objective of achieving peace? Does achieving this objective require holding negotiations in closed rooms, behind the scenes, and behind closed doors?

The secret talks demanded by Israel raise suspicions and doubts. They indicate that the leaders of Tel Aviv through twisted means and secret talks want to conceal things they do not want to reveal in the open. This means that these things are reprehensible and harmful. Otherwise, why the secrecy?

All this confirms that Rabin and the new ideas, that is, if there are any new ideas, which he carried to Washington are nothing more than test balloons and new methods of deception and of trying to show that Israel is working to achieve peace, adopting initiatives, making proposals, and raising ideas to activate the peace process.

However, the hoopla Israel is making was not heard by the world. It will be heard only if the Israelis announce that they will fully withdraw from the Golan and southern lebanon. Only then will it be possible to talk about new ideas by Rabin that are different from the current ideas which are totally remote from the bases of the desired peace.

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Afghanistan

Rabbani Troops Launch Offensive Against Taleban

BK0805112995 Hong Kong AFP in English 0759 GMT 8 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kabul, May 8 (AFP) — Forces loyal to President Borhanoddin Rabbani launched a ground offensive Monday [8 May] against Taleban religious students near Maidan Shahr, 30 kilometres (18 miles) southwest of Kabul, a defence ministry spokesman said.

The dawn offensive followed three days of intense air attacks, the spokesman said, but failed to mention any casualties. Nor did he specify if Rabbani's forces gained ground.

The Taleban and the Rabbani forces are facing off against each other a few kilometres (miles) from Maidan Shahr.

The imminence of Monday's offensive, backed by tanks and aircraft, had been hinted at several times by sources close to Rabbani's military chief, Ahmad Shah Mas'ud.

The Taleban had for the past few weeks partially blocked traffic from Maidan Shahr towards Kabul, preventing the passage of convoys carrying fuel to the capital.

The militia which burst on the Afghan scene from the southern region bordering Pakistan, had taken a third of the country within a few months and was advancing on Kabul in March when it took a beating from Mas'ud's forces.

The Taleban were also routed in the west of the country when they tried to take the Shindand air base in Farah province from Rabbani's forces.

Taleban Urged To Join in Fight Against Rabbani

LD0805153695 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 8 May 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] More than ever it is high time that the Afghans, especially the jehadi organizations, united to safeguard jehadi achievements. Learning from their past mistakes, the Taleban Islamic movement should join hands with other jehadi organizations against Rabbani. In our opinion, had the Taleban attacked Kabul first and fought Rabbani-Mas'ud, the Afghan tragedy would not have lasted for such a long time. Instead of diagnosing the disease of division and taking action against it, the Taleban engaged themselves with trivial matters. This course of action brought them nothing but failure. The only thing that the United States and the West have declared war against is, without any doubt, the Islamic movement. The other thing of importance in these terms is the Islamic movement of Afghanistan. So all sincere Islamists of Afghanistan should gather in this movement and not lose the opportunity that is available in the form of an uprising and resistance. Otherwise, God forbid, the situation we are in will get worse and we will lose the confidence of the nation. To discredit the mojahedin in the nation and in the world is the first goal of the world's non-muslims.

India

Rights Official Details Abuses in Kashmir

BK0705160095 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 7 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Reports from occupied Kashmir speak of widespread barbaric operations by Indian occupation forces. Nine more people have been martyred during crackdowns and siege and search operations in Baramula, Pulwama, Srinagar, and Sopor. Indian troops burst into a house in Gandarbal and shot dead two people. Later, their bodies were thrown in a deserted place. Indian troops also suffered casualties in retaliatory attacks by mujahideen.

The situation in Charar Sharif is reported to be tense with people deprived of essential commodities; and in an interview with PTV representative Syed Sajid Shah in Muzaffarabad today, the secretary general of Jammu and Kashmir Human Rights Council, Syed Nazir Gilani, said half of the civilian population in Charar Sharif has fled to escape Indian brutalities.

[Begin Gilani recording] There have been unprecedented abuses of human rights in the Valley of Kashmir. All the international bodies, including those from India, from Pakistan and all over the world, have indicted India with profuse evidence that her paramilitary forces that number over 600,000 in Kashmir have engaged themselves in criminal behavior which amounts to a crime of war as well. India is not only violating the basic human rights but she has engaged herself in violating the religious rights of the people of Kashmir and her forces have put a siege to Charar Sharif for the last so many weeks and half of the population has migrated from Charar Sharif. The others remaining are bereft of any medical supply. Food and other life-keeping provisions are very scant. So, it is time that we engage and invite the attention of the international community to the situation in Kashmir and to the deteriorating situation, in particular danger to life in Kashmir. [end recording]

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The Kashmir issue is a burning problem not only fyor the Muslim ummah [community] but the entire world. Chairman of Parliament's Kashmir committee, Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, was addressing Kashmiri Hujjaj [Hajj pilgrims] in Mecca-i-Muazzamah. He said it is incumbent upon the nations of the world to solve this problem which is a flashpoint in one of the most volatile regions of the world. He said Pakistanis stand side by side with their Kashmiri brothers and extend full cooperation to them because they consider the Kashmir issue the problem of the whole Muslim ummah.

Commentary Hails New Delhi's Rights Record

BK0805132395 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 8 May 95

[Commentary by Arun Kumar: "Protecting Human Rights in Kashmir"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India has been defending itself against the proxy war waged by Pakistan in Kashmir for over five years since Islamabad launched a well-organized plan to spread disaffection in the valley. Since 1990, militants trained by Pakistan have perpetrated communal violence, killed hundreds of innocent persons, and driven out thousands of the minority community out of their homes. Yet, in the face of it all, India has maintained a clean record of human rights as it battled terrorism of the worst kind.

Of late, there has been a new transparency in India's policy in the valley as New Delhi prepares to reinitiate the political process after bringing the foreign inspired militancy under control. A large number of diplomats, officials, humanitarian workers, and representatives of several western governments have been permitted to visit Kashmir in recent months. These steps have been widely appreciated with the United Nation's Commissioner for Human Rights expressing happiness that India has been trying to institutionalize protection of human rights by forming the National Human Rights Commission. Mr. Jose Ayala Lasso, who paid a week-long visit to India recently, welcomed the government's gesture of extending official facilities for visiting sensitive areas. The prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, who met Mr. Lasso the other day welcomed his stress on taking a balanced view on human rights issues. This, he said, was especially necessary when people sometimes tended to place all the blame and responsibility for human rights on the government while ignoring violations by terrorists. The prime minister reiterated the Indian Government's commitment to protect its citizens and told Mr. Lasso that the country's long history of human behavior and its democratic safeguards ensured the continuing protection of human rights.

During his visit to Kashmir, Mr. Lasso met human rights activists, police, and government officials freely and collected complaints of alleged human rights violations from any individual or nongovernmental organization that chose to meet him. But he is unlikely to find any substance in them as the state government systematically investigates all such allegations published in the local press on the basis of statements issued by militant outfits. Between January and mid-April the government investigated 34 allegations and found 32 of them false. It was obvious that they had all been made to tarnish the image of the security forces. Faced with the situation where militants mingled with the civilian population, Indian security forces have been taking great pains to see that the innocent are not harassed for no fault of theirs. They have been given clear and strict instructions to respect and preserve the civil, political, social, cultural, and economic rights of civilians in the valley.

An environment now exists in Kashmir for the initiation of the political process disrupted by militancy with the growing realization that no problem can be solved by the gun. Any following that the militants may have is due to the fear of the gun rather than any sympathy for their so-called cause. The expressed opposition of the pro-Pak militants to the elections clearly stems from the fear that polls would call their bluff and clearly show who the true representatives of the people are. To restore the political process, the government has not only released almost all the principal leaders of various militant groups, but also indicated the willingness to discuss their demands with those who get elected to the state assembly. But, elections do not suit their masters across the border, who, for their own domestic compulsions, have thoroughly declined to withdraw their prolonged support to the militants.

Dozens of foreign observers visiting Kashmir have confirmed how the peace process is being vitiated by Pakistan's continuing support to the militants. Having miserably failed to make Kashmir an international issue, Pakistan should now well realize that any issue in Kashmir is one between the people of Kashmir and the government of India. And what India is doing in Kashmir is for all to see. It is thus time that those raising the bogey of human rights in Kashmir themselves give up the gun and let peace have a chance in the valley.

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Editorials Review Eighth SAARC Summit, Results

Favorable Marks for Exposing Problems

BK0905024995 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 5 May 95 p 8

[Editorial: "Call from Delhi"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The eighth SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit which concluded on Thursday [4 May] was remarkable for the way it brought to the fore a keen awareness among its participants of the shortcomings of the regional organisation. At the same time, the New Delhi conclave was notable for the way it decided to use SAARC's plus points in pursuing realistic goals in regional cooperation. The Prime Minister, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao, summed up the gathering's consensus in facing the daunting challenges before South Asia when he pointed out that history had left certain positive as well as difficult legacies to countries in this region: the best way to approach problems facing the SAARC countries was to use the positive aspects so that the difficulties can be overcome in the long run. His analogy of students wanting to start by tackling easy questions in an examination before getting to the difficult ones aptly sums up the practical approach that was pervasive at the official as well as ministerial levels within SAARC in the run up to the New Delhi summit. Seen in this light, the decision by the heads of state and government not to amend the SAARC charter to include bilateral disputes must be welcomed.

The 'Delhi Declaration' adopted by the summit is, by any yardstick, an impressive document which sets out an action plan for SAARC as the organisation enters its second decade. At a time when there is considerable scepticism about the effectiveness of SAARC, its role as the collective voice of South Asia is likely to be judged by steps taken to implement the key aspects of the declaration. It is for this reason that Mr Abdul Gayoom, the Maldives president and next chairman of SAARC, described the declaration as a reflection of the organisation's resolve to promote regional cooperation further in pursuit of the common objective of achieving greater economic and social progress. The most ambitious aspect of the declaration is the commitment of those who took part in the New Delhi summit to eradicate poverty in South Asia by the year 2002. However, the agenda of action outlined in the document for achieving this target is limited in scope. Exchanging information on anti—poverty programmes or setting up commissions to tackle poverty are not enough to begin what actually should have been a collective attack on poverty afflicting one-fifth of humanity living in the region. The summit's decision to declare 1995, when Mr Rao is chairman of SAARC, as the 'SAARC year of poverty eradication' imposes a special responsibility on India to give the lead in improving the lot of South Asia's poor.

Daily Criticizes Leghari's Conduct

BK0905082195 Delhi THE PIONEER in English 8 May 95 p 8

[Editorial: "Pakistan does it again"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Pakistan President, Mr Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari, has, by his controversial conduct, clearly shown why the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) has not been also to take off. [sentence as published] When the SAARC was formed ten years ago, it was a result of the growing realisation among the countries of the region that bilateral disputes and differences of perceptions would have to be set aside if the region was to prosper by taking advantage of one another's economies, resources and geographical proximity. Yet, the objective could not be achieved because the SAARC nations failed to push the controversial issues under the carpet, with Pakistan taking the lead because of its pathetic obsession with Kashmir.

Mr Leghari made his country's intentions amply clear while addressing the inaugural session of the three-day summit. He demanded a change in the SAARC charter to enable member-countries to raise bilateral issues at this multilateral forum. And on the day the summit concluded, he hosted a lunch in the Pakistan High Commission premises for Kashmiri secessionist leaders belonging to the All-Party Hurriyat Conference. As is well-known, these leaders may differ in their attitude towards Pakistan, but they are unanimous on demanding secession from India. That is why Mr Leghari had to meet them separately on a one-to-one basis after talking to them collectively. This leaves hardly any doubt regarding the fact that Mr Leghari was actually canvassing support for his country's stand that Kashmir should be merged with Pakistan.

The furor cutting across party lines in the Rajya Sabha over this development reflects the sentiments of all patriotic Indians. Firstly, as the members pointed out, Mr Leghari clearly abused the hospitality offered by the host country for pursuing his own agenda and vitiated the spirit of regional cooperation embodied in SAARC. Also, it is inconceivable that any Indian leader can ever be allowed to hold similar talks with anti-establishment elements on Pakistani soil. In this context the Narasimha Rao Government cannot escape criticism for permitting the Hurriyat leaders to have talks with Mr Leghari. Allowing them to attend a Pakistan Day function was at an entirely different level. Mr Leghari's statement on

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returning to Islamabad that no dialogue with Pakistan was possible until India withdrew TADA [Terrorism and Disruptive Activities Act], is also an unacceptable interference in India's internal affairs. It also shows that Pakistan is yet to shed its pretensions of being the custodian of Muslims of the subcontinent, even though ethnic violence among its own Muslim population flies in the face of such a claim.

Iran

Reaction to Economic Situation, U.S. Sanctions

Rafsanjani Warns 'Economic Saboteurs'

LD0905104995 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 9 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in a warning to economic saboteurs, has described the rise in the value of the dollar as a conspiratorial move. He stated: The government will deal decisively with people who sabotage the country's economy and with the elements of the artificial rise in the value of dollar.

The president added: Speculators and profiteering, with the cooperation of the United States and the Zionist regime, have created a climate intended to ensure that people should not feel the sweet taste and benefit of the vast and important services of the government. But the government will not allow a group of profiteers and opportunistic speculators to harm the Islamic regime and our revolutionary people.

The president, who was speaking today at the opening ceremony of a huge meat-packaging complex in Tehran, said: At present favorable grounds are being prepared for economic activities in the country. Unfortunately, however, a number of exporters and speculators take advantage of the present situation; they do not bring the currency they receive from exports back into the country. [passage omitted]

Rial Plunges to New Low

NC0805145495 Paris AFP in English 1331 GMT 8 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, May 8 (AFP) — The Iranian currency plunged to a new low Monday [8 May], dropping below the barrier of 6,000 rials to the dollar despite efforts by the government to prevent its collapse.

The new fall came amid a deepening economic crisis which has seen the rial lose around 150 percent of its value on the open market since the beginning of the year.

The Central Bank froze the rate of the dollar at 5,460 rials on the open market on Monday but the greenback shot up from 5,700 rials in the early morning to 6,150 at the close of trading.

Agents of the Central Bank, accompanied by police officers, visited offices of official money changers early Monday to inform them of the bank's decision to freeze the dollar, several money changers told AFP.

The decision, which was characteristically not announced officially, came on the day that a newspaper here accused the country's monetary officials of "losing control" of financial markets.

The dollar stood at 4,200 rials two weeks ago and its rise has prompted intense criticism from the press.

Other major currencies, which followed the rise in the rate of dollar, have not been affected by the bank's decision, according to money changers.

The authorities have already frozen the dollar for three months early this year, prompting the creation of a black market and confusion in the open market — where the German mark was traded at a higher rate than the dollar.

The English-language daily IRAN NEWS on Monday blasted the government's inaction and silence on the financial crisis. "The Central Bank has lost control of the situation on the financial markets," it said.

The paper acknowledged that the U.S. economic embargo on Iran, announced by President Bill Clinton on April 30, had "aggravated" the fall of the rial but criticised the inability of the government to react.

Clinton has called a halt to trade and investment with Iran after accusing the government here of supporting terrorism and seeking nuclear arms.

But IRAN NEWS, which warned of the dangers of "frightening" inflation that has sent prices doubling and in some cases tripling in two months, said: "So far no fundamental measures have been taken...mainly due to the instability of (economic) rules and regulations."

"People are losing respect for the banking system," which has failed to protect them against the runaway inflation, prompting them to invest their monies in foreign currencies, it said.

IRAN NEWS also condemned the "corruption and illegal practices of officials in most areas and professions," which had accelerated inflation and the collapse of the Iranian currency.

It strongly criticised the "unjustifiable silence of the economic minister and the governor of the Central

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Bank," who have refused to comment on the economic crisis.

"Our people have the right to learn about the main reasons behind frightening price hikes and the severe depreciation of the rial," the paper said.

Judicial Chief Blames Israel for Ban

LD0805171595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 8 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At a session of the country's judicial officials today, judiciary head Yazdi criticized the ill-considered move of Clinton, the U.S. President, concerning economic sanctions against Iran. He said: The White House is the executor of the plans of international Zionism. The source of this Punch and Judy show is in Israel.

Pointing out the negative reaction to that childish move of the United States, he praised the world's countries for declaring their righteous and independent stance on the matter. He called on the people of the United States to censure and condemn Clinton for provoking the feelings of the world, the Islamic peoples, and the Iranian nation against their country. He condemned the Zionist regime's interminable hegemony and its recent invasion of eastern Palestine. He declared: The world's Muslims and the Arab countries will not remain indifferent to those horrific crimes.

Commentary on Israeli Support for Ban

LD0805144495 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 8 May 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Addressing a session of the U.S. (?Jewish) committee in Washington, Yitzhaq Rabin, the prime minister of the Zionist regime, asked the world community to follow the U.S. President's decision on fully boycotting Iran. In apparent fear, Rabin spoke of the struggle of the Palestinian nation for liberating its homeland and also for promoting Islamist thoughts and moves in the Islamic world as terrorism and Islamic fundamentalism. He noted: The waves of this move have today swept the entire Middle East.

Rabin's comments denote that the Zionist regime—even under the total protective umbrella of the ringleader of the hegemonist system, that is, America—has a feeling of insecurity. His appeal to the world community for mass mobilization against the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran emanates from this same insecurity.

The reason is that the unlawful Israeli regime, despite resorting to the most violent terroristic methods and an extensive policy of suppression and intimidation, is unable to face the struggle of Palestinian Muslims. Utter failure in this front has prompted the leaders of the Zionist regime to launch an orchestrated offensive along with Washington in the political and propaganda spheres, in a bid to attribute the defeat in the domestic battle to external elements.

The justification made by Tel Aviv and Washington of the resurgence that is sweeping the Islamic world is that the involvement of the Islamic Republic of Iran can be observed in every move undertaken by the world's Muslims, who are liberating themselves from the dominant system. On the contrary, the Islamic Republic, except for basically opposing the compromise process and extending moral support to the Islamists and the independence- seeking struggles of nations, has not taken any other action.

The prime minister of the Zionist regime, in the framework of the anti-Islamic and anti-Iran policies of America and Israel, has described, in the comments made in Washington, the Islamic Republic of Iran as a danger to regional stability and tranquility. But this point is too evident and undeniable—that insecurity prevails in occupied Palestine; the insecurity in the Middle East originates from the Zionist occupation of Palestine and the expansion of that regime's nuclear weapons arsenal with the direct support of America.

Some Arab governments' compromise with the Zionist regime will not restore real security to the Middle East, and total security and tranquillity in that region will be possible only through the restitution of the indisputable rights of its Muslim people. The Islamic Republic of Iran is the herald of this reality.

Students Protest at Former Embassy

LD0905111195 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 9 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A large group of the members of the union of the Islamic societies of the country's students held a rally today and condemned the U.S. satanic policies against the Islamic Republic of Iran. Our correspondent reports:

[Correspondent] Following the revengeful-seeking and ill-judged stand taken by Bill Clinton, president of the United States, against the Muslim nation of Iran, a large group of the members of the union of the Islamic societies of the country's students staged an extensive and glorious rally today in the direction of the former U.S. den of espionage in order to back the recent assertions made by His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the great leader of the Islamic revolution, on welcoming the U.S. economic sanctions against Iran;

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and in support of the explicit and decisive speech made by our country's president on the subject. They declared their readiness and alertness in confronting the sinister conspiracies by the world-devouring United States and usurping Israel.

The male and female students, while wearing shrouds and carrying placards condemning the world arrogance led by the United States, began their march from their appropriate educational centers in large and small groups and in orderly and organized ranks and showing happy faces and a contented spirit over the banning of economic ties with the United States. They gathered in front of the den of espionage of the great satan, the United States, and revived once again the revolutionary slogans: Death to America and Death to Israel. [passage omitted]

At the end of the ceremony a resolution was passed with six articles and was approved by the shouts of approval by those present.

U.S. Interference in Moscow Ties Called 'Tricks'

LD0905135295 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 9 May 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] U.S. President Bill Clinton, before leaving for Moscow, once again stressed Washington's efforts for severing Tehran-Moscow cooperation regarding the sale of nuclear reactors, accusing Tehran of planning to produce nuclear arms. The U.S. President, also in his latest efforts to justify the dangers resulting from Tehran-Moscow nuclear cooperation, said: I believe Russia also desires to prevent possession of weapons by a neighbor country especially Iran with its background.

What is certain is that U.S. officials have made great efforts to carry out what they call preemptive measures against Iran by using propaganda tricks, lies, creating an atmosphere of fear, and threatening other countries. In this way it seems that Moscow has now been turned into the center of U.S. pressure against Iran and this choice has been made for several reasons: first, Iran and Russia are counted as two large and significant countries located in a sensitive area with a special geopolitical and economic situation. A region, which from the viewpoint of the West is the gate leading to the Eastern civilization and a large economic market as well as one of the future powerful political-economic poles of the world.

Second, U.S. statesmen believe that they can put the government of Moscow under pressure with promises of economic aid so as to coordinate and converge the foreign relations and policy-makings with interests of the West. But reality should be seen on the other side of the coin as the Russians are fully aware of the national interests and political independence; and understanding this point is not a difficult task. For example, promises of economic aid of Washington to Moscow, which is less than $350,000 [figure as heard] for the year 1996, and the threat to cut off the aid can also further encourage Russia to sell more nuclear technology, which is a larger income. On the other hand, from the viewpoint of Moscow, the U.S. is making efforts to convince Russia to stop nuclear cooperation with Iran at the time when Washington has previously in a similar measure agreed to the sale of nuclear reactors to North Korea with the same specifications as the Iran-Russia agreements. Existence of such obvious contradictions in the U.S. policies, on the one hand, and the open support of Washington for Israel's nuclear arms policies, which is a potential threat to the security of the regional countries, on the other [hand], are all issues which will make Washington face difficulties in reaching its goal; and Moscow is undoubtedly not the place where Washington can easily obtain its goal.

Official Notes 'Positive Signs' in Iraqi Ties

LD0705114795 Tehran IRNA in English 1100 GMT 7 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, May 7, IRNA — The two neighboring countries of Iran and Iraq should settle their disputes through negotiations, said Deputy Foreign Minister for Arab-African Affairs Hoseyn Shaykh ol-Eslam.

In an interview with the Persian daily'IRAN', he said that positive signs have been noticed from the part of the Iraqi Government both in Tehran and Baghdad and measures have been taken to narrow the gap and solve the problems.

Shaykh ol-Eslam did not further elaborate on the 'positive signs' but stressed that settlement of the problem regarding the Iranian prisoners of war in Iraq is among issues in the way of the expansion of mutual ties.

Asked about the date for Iran-Turkey-Syria tripartite meeting on situation in northern Iraq, the official expressed hope that the Turkish partner would provide suitable conditions for the meeting to convene.

UN Envoy Reports Iraqi Cease-Fire Violations

LD0205114695 Tehran IRNA in English 1056 GMT 2 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New York, May 2, IRNA — Iran's permanent representative to the United Nations

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Kamal Kharrazi reported 20 cases of Iraqi cease-fire violations to U.N. secretary General Butrus Butrus Ghali on Monday [1 May].

In a letter to the U.N. chief, the Iranian envoy said the cases have been recorded within December 28 to January 15.

The letter listed cases of the violations as shooting towards Iranian soil and troops, concentration of Iraqi troops, reinforcement of their positions, blocking Basra-Khorramshahr road in 'Shalamcheh' region, building new trenches, construction of observation posts in buffer zones, installation of machineguns, launching engineering operations as well as offensive practices in border areas.

The letter, released as a Security Council document, added that a number of Iraqi and anti-revolutionary agents in plain clothes penetrated into the Iranian soil in 'Kuh-Tunel' region in January 15 and opened fire at the Iranian border guards. Facing reaction of the Iranian forces they managed to flee to Iraq under protection of Iraqi military forces, the letter added.

It also reported to the U.N. chief patrolling of four Iraqi jet fighters and one helicopter over border areas across Khorramshahr and 'Minu' island in January 5.

Radio: Syria Will Not Be 'Tool' in Peace Talks

LD0505221495 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 5 May 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Zionist regime premier, Yitzhaq Rabin, has set out today, Friday 5th May, on a five day visit to the United States of America. One of the main topics of talks due to be held between the Zionist regime premier and the senior American officials have been described to be on the Arab-Israeli negotiations and on the Syrian side while discussions on the special Washington-Tel Aviv talks as well as the continuation of the military and technological collaboration between the two sides are also included as an objective of Yitzhaq Rabin's visit to America.

Political analysts say Zionist regime premier, on the eve of the inception of the U.S.-Israeli election campaigns, in his meeting with the U.S. President Bill Clinton intends to achieve a solution with the White House officials' cooperation to convince Syria to set up the Syrian-Israeli process of the apparently Middle East peace talks. It is more than a year now that the talks between the Syrian and Zionist regime delegations have been suspended. Of course last December the two countries chiefs of staffs met and subsequently several meetings have taken place between the two countries at the ambassadorial level in Washington on the issues in dispute though none of these meeting have succeeded in taking even a single step towards removing the obstacles. In this concern the Syrian officials maintain the Zionist regime's obstructionism and that regime's disrespect for the UN Security Council resolutions demanding the withdrawal of the Israeli force from the occupied Golan Heights as two major and substantial factors in drawing the bilateral talks between the two countries to a deadlock and state of depression.

The Tel Aviv authorities, through making certain overtures on a partial withdrawal from the Golan Heights and promotion of the negotiations' level from time to time seek to prevent the negotiations' wheel from coming to a total cessation. While the Syrians, in contrast, place stress on this point that the unprincipled and insubstantial offers set forth by the Tel Aviv regime amount merely to extracting a concession and will violate Syria's territorial integrity. However, the analysts believe that the attempt put up by the Washington-Tel Aviv axis to convince Syria to conclude a final accord with the Zionist regime at this particular juncture of time when election campaigns are on the way in both America and the occupied Palestine is seemingly a striking issue. Evidently Washington-Tel Aviv officials' supposition to convince Syria to agree to conclude an agreement with the Zionist regime can be considered as an ace in the future U.S.-Zionist regime elections. However, it also seems unlikely that Syria disregards its territorial integrity by becoming a tool in the hands of America and Israel to enable them to achieve their objectives through using Syria.

Khamene'i Issues Message to Hajj Pilgrims

LD0605210895 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 6 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the guardian of Muslims, has issued an important message addressed to the pilgrims to the house of God on the occasion of the great hajj congregation, calling on them to adopt closeness to God in their thoughts and deeds and to avoid Satan and Taghut [idol mentioned in the Koran, often used as reference to shah or other dictators] with all their body and soul, and describing all the actions and rituals of the hajj as being based on these two aims and on the attempt to attain them. The full text of the eminent leader's message is as follows:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] If Islam were devoid of the hajj, it would be devoid of one of its most important pillars and vital elements. In its very essence, the hajj possesses

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two main elements: closeness to God in thought and deed and avoidance of Satan and Taghut, with body and soul. All the actions and rituals of the hajj are directed toward these two aims and toward preparing for them. This, in reality, is a summary of Islam and of all divine commands. [passage omitted]

If the hajj is performed in accordance with what is stated in the Koran and in accordance with the actions and declarations of the Prophet, may peace be upon him and his scion; [passage omitted] if the rituals are derived from his actions, they will lead to the perfection of the individual and to the honor of the ummah.

Anyone who opposes this kind of hajj and who considers the hajj to be something apart from these main paths and directions opposes the Muslim's quest for perfection and the honor of the Islamic ummah.

Today, global arrogance, with the United States as its standard bearer and with Zionism as the planner, is engaged in a blatant struggle against Islam and Muslims. This is, of course, a continuation of the longstanding hostilities of the enemies of Islam, but with new methods, motivations, and instruments. However, the Islamic ummah possesses this focal point for resistance, strength, and unity.

Is it worthy that Muslims should not be able to benefit from the hajj as a means of confronting the vengeful, conspiratorial, and division-sowing enemy and that they should stand defenseless before the enemy instead?

A true and complete hajj can foil the most dangerous plots of the enemy against Islam and Muslims through a bringing together of hearts, through an exchange of knowledge and awareness, and through the exposure of conspiracies.

Today, the enemy of Islam — that is, the leaders of arrogance and Zionism — considers its most important task to be the sowing of divisions among Muslims and the creation of a propaganda uproar against any country, government, or group which speaks of Islamic awakening and of the sovereignty of the Koran and which claims to represent the honor of Muslims. If it can separate the active and dynamic parts of the Islamic ummah from its other parts, it can be certain that it will not be faced with a vast and united ummah and that it will be able to carry out its vicious plans for the Islamic ummah without any trouble.

These days, the people of the world are witnessing the extensive and intense scale of the propaganda from the blowhorns of arrogance against the Islamic Republic of Iran. This is based on the same policy which, praise be to God, has, of course, remained unsuccessful so far, but is still being pursued with all arrogance's might.

What lies behind this enmity against Islamic Iran, from the time of the late imam [Khomeyni], may God be satisfied with his deeds, until now, is the fact that, in this country, all policies are based on Islamic criteria and are selected or rejected on this basis. All political stances are adopted on the basis of Islamic commands.

Compromise between governments and Zionism is rejected, because this would amount to the eternal homelessness of the Palestinian nation and the eternal occupation of the country of Palestine by the enemy.

The Islamic Republic supports the Palestinian, Bosnian, Tajik, Afghan, Kashmiri, Chechen, Azerbaijani, and Algerian nations, as well as other wronged Muslim nations, because the Koran explicitly declares support for the meek to be a necessity. [passage omitted]

It opposes the hegemony of the United States and its influence and interference in Islamic countries and in all oppressed countries, because the Koran declares that it should. [passage omitted]

In its own country, it has made Islamic commands the source and basis of lawmaking, because it considers acting on the basis of Islamic commands to be the way to achieve honor, independence, comfort, and material and spiritual development for a nation. All this has led to a situation in which the leaders of arrogance, with Zionist conspirators acting as middlemen, see Islamic Iran as their number one enemy and carry out their enmity against it to the utmost extent of their power.

The important point is that, today, throughout the Islamic ummah, enthusiasm for these aims and stances of Islam is all-encompassing. In many Islamic countries, young people, outstanding strata, the most select and pure elements of the clergy, seminary teachers, artists, poets, and writers, and also many government employees and middle-class people have devoted their hearts and even their tongues and pens to these aims. They oppose the Arab-Israeli compromise. They oppose the ever-growing influence of the United States over their governments. They oppose the indifference of governments to Islamic events in Europe, Asia, and Africa.

Arrogance sees all this as the result of the victory of Islam in Iran and the ever-growing strength of Islamic Iran. It, therefore, harbors a hatred bordering on madness toward the Islamic Republic of Iran. This is also one of the most important reasons motivating those who oppose a hajj according to Abrahamite traditions, a meaningful and purposeful hajj. Acting with prudence is a miraculous element which can contribute to the spread of this idea in all Muslims. It should also be borne in mind that the hajj is a huge crossroad allowing

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the exchange of information among nations from the east, west, north, and south of the world of Islam.

I modestly advise all Muslim brothers and sisters, who have gathered together in the vast congregation of the hajj, to exercise prudence and to bear in mind the two main points I mentioned; that is, trusting oneself to God and taking oneself close to the sacred spirit of God in thought and deed with pure and true servitude, on the one hand; and keeping away from and avoiding satans and the enemies of God's path and direction, on the other hand. To return to their homelands with a spirit armed with piety and a heart filled with confidence in God and a spirit brimming with hope in the future of the Islamic ummah, and with a strong determination to pursue the aims of Islam and to bring about the sovereignty of the teachings, commands, and culture of Islam in Islamic societies.

The hollow power of the enemy must not blind eyes. It benefits from the weakness and dissipation of the morale of Muslims and it presents itself falsely as powerful in the eyes of the simpleminded.

In all areas where Muslims are truly standing up to its bullying, arrogance has been defeated or has failed to achieve its ends. One look at Islamic Iran, which, with God's strength, has emerged victorious during the past 16 years in the face of the vast, gigantic proportions of the enmity of the United States and its allies, and which is stronger, more successful, more enthusiastic, and more hopeful today than ever before, proves this point.

Today, the United States, the flag bearer of arrogance, has not only failed and been disgraced in its unequal fight against the movement of Islamic awakening, but it is also facing great and insoluble economic, security, and political problems within itself. In the same way, in its so-called superpower efforts — which the naive U.S. leaders presume to be their right — it has tasted bitter and successive defeats, and God willing, it will taste more in the future.

A glance at the Palestinian situation and the sweet but unfulfilled dream of solving the Palestinian issue, which has now reached a difficult turn, or a glance at East Africa and the disgraced and hateful U.S. withdrawal from Somali, or a glance at Europe and the passive and useless U.S. role in the Balkans, or a glance at the U.S. global pleading and futile effort to end all trade between Iran and all other countries, or a glance at the U.S. ugly and disgusting effort to blame Iran for events such as that in Argentina, and, finally, the U.S. disgrace after the revelation of truth in many similar events, proves the point that the claimed superior power of arrogance — much like many of their similar claims, such as the defense of human rights — is but empty talk.

Muslims are stronger than arrogance if they show the will, steadfastness, and wisdom. The arrogant forces are entangled in great and incurable weaknesses in dealing with human problems, and no society or government, particularly a firmly determined and enlightened nation and even more so the great Islamic nation, should allow fear into its heart. Finally, and once again, I invite all to contemplate every hajj ritual and rite, to pray for guidance from the infinite divine power, and to maintain attachment to God. [passage omitted]

[Signed] 'Ali Hoseyni Khamene'i, 4 May

Pakistan

Ramzi Aide Arrested; Extradition 'Likely'

BK0905034295 Islamabad THE NATION in English 9 May 95 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad — In a follow-up operation of the arrest and subsequent extradition of alleged terrorist Ramzi Yusuf, federal gencies made another breakthrough when they arrested his aide Abu Safian in Quetta.

In joint efforts with other agencies and local administration, a special FIA [Federal Investigation Agency] team arrested Abu Safian from Quetta and later brought him to Islamabad for indepth interrogation. Sources said Abu Safian, An Arab national and head of an NGO [Non-governmental organization] was arrested on the charges of selling Yusuf's property in Quetta.

Sources said Abu Safian is being interrogated in Islamabad by a special team of FIA and other agencies and after necessary interrogation [the] government is likely to extradite him to United States.

Sources said to avoid any untoward incident, the special team along with local administration and FC [Frontier Corps] jawans [soldiers] raided the office of Abu Safian in Quetta. A source said Abu Safian could not be brought to Islamabad in a Balochistan's governor plane when local administration asked the team to provide FIRs [first information reports] of cases registered against Abu Safian. However, copies of FIRs against Abu Safian were faxed from Islamabad and he was brought here on a PIA flight.

No further details were available as the authorities were not willing to disclose anthing in this regard.

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Foreign Minister Expresses 'Solidarity' With Iran

BK0905060395 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 9 May 95 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad (APP) — Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali expressed Pakistan's solidarity with Iran and regretted the recent stand of President Clinton against Iran.

The foreign minister in a telephonic conversation with Iranian foreign minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati reiterated his country's willingness for all cooperation with government and Muslim nation of Iran, said Teheran Radio Sunday [7 May].

In response the Iranian foreign minister expressed gratitude over brotherly solidarity of the government and people of Pakistan with Iran, it said. Velayati said he will convey the sentiments of friendship and solidarity of Pakistan to the Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

During their telephonic conversation, situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina also came up for discussion between the two foreign ministers.

Meanwhile, the government has expressed concern over the reported decision of the Israeli authorities to expropriate 53 hectares of Palestinian land as part of a new settlement scheme in Arab areas of al-Quds, reports PPP.

A foreign office spokesman in a statement issued in Islamabad Monday said the steps stipulated by Israel are in contravention of the provisions of international law and relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council. They are also in violation of the declaration of principles accord, which was signed between the two parties with the United States and the Russian Federation as coguarantors.

"Israeli measures relating to settlements annexation of Palestinian lands, closure of the occupied territories, and excavation in al-Quds are in utter disregard of international norms and justice", he added.

He said the government of Pakistan calls upon the Israeli authorities to stop such measures, it also urges the United States and the Russian Federation, as coguarantors of the declaration of principles accord, as well as the international community, to take cognizance of the Israeli policies, which might lead to collapse of the peace process, and pose a threat to regional peace and security.

Foreign Minister Views Indian 'Crimes' in Kashmir

BK0805130395 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 7 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali says the government has effectively exposed India's massive atrocities and barbaric activities in occupied Kashmir and brought the Kashmir dispute to center stage in international forums. In a statement in Islamabad, he said Indian forces in the occupied territory are currently involved in massive repression and human rights violations to crush the spontaneous uprising by the people of Jammu and Kashmir. The foreign minister said that despite the Indian Government's untiring attempts to conceal its crimes in the territory, the Pakistani Government's efforts at different levels have put the Indian Government on the defensive before international human rights organizations, the UN Human Rights Commission, the OIC [Organization of the Islamic Conference], the United Nations, and various other bodies.

The foreign minister cautioned against Indian intrigues designed to create confusion and spread concocted lies all over the world, particularly within occupied Kashmir, to divide the struggling Kashmiri people. In this context, he referred to recent comments regarding the Simla agreement. He said it is an open document in which there is no secret clause. The signatories to the agreement pledged to discuss the final settlement of Jammu and Kashmir, and in one of its clauses Pakistan and India agreed that the principles and objectives of the UN Charter should govern relations between the two countries.

Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali regretted the recent statement of Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, the leader of the opposition, in which he has said that during the Simla negotiations the late Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto promised not to raise the Kashmir issue. He described Nawaz Sharif's allegation as totally false. In fact, he added, some Indian journalists and intellectuals — smitten by feelings of (?provincialism) — are fanning the Indian propaganda in this connection to sap the morale of the struggling Kashmiri people. The foreign minister categorically stated there is no mention anywhere in the Simla agreement that the United Nations will not have a role to play in the Jammu and Kashmir dispute.

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Commentary Urges India To Face Kashmir Dispute

BK0905050895 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 8 May 95

[Commentary by Mohammad Yamin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The (?summit of) the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation [words indistinct] which provided an opportunity to the Government of Pakistan, [words indistinct] opposition, as also to the Indian media persons to listen to each other's viewpoints, particularly with regard to the outstanding issues between India and Pakistan. Leader of the two sides has ever denied the existence of problems between the two countries. [sentence as heard]

While some of these problems are of recent origin and therefore not of a very serious nature, both sides also agreed, even though by implication, that the question of Kashmir being a complicated one is the core outstanding issue between India and Pakistan. This being so and the dispute having existed for almost half a century, the Indian approach toward a solution is not understandable. Its reluctance to tackle this most complex concern of its foreign policy is really inexplicable except for the obvious explanation that India perhaps does not desire a lasting solution of the Jammu and Kashmir issue as it considers the present stalemate in its own favor.

Both in the press conference held after the bilateral meeting between President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari and premier Narasimha Rao and the Pakistani president's breakfast meeting with Delhi-based media personnel, this delaying tactics approach to the Kashmir problem was clearly visible on the part of the Indian side. The Indian prime minister observed in a somewhat lighthearted manner that India was like a student who wanted to attempt simple questions first while Pakistan wanted to take up the difficult question first. At the breakfast meeting with the newsmen, the Indian pressmen, obviously toeing the Indian government line, remarked that Pakistan wanted talks on Kashmir or nothing. India's interest in, first of all, the issues other than Kashmir, particularly those relating to bilateral trade, has been well-known.

With its rich resources, advanced technology and inferior quality but cheaper goods, it wishes to swamp the Pakistani markets with Indian-manufactured goods and cripple Pakistan's industry and dominate its economy. Although Pakistan is well aware of these Indian moves, it has never taken up a rigid position in India-Pakistan relations. While Pakistan sincerely believes and it is only logical to have such a belief that Kashmir being the biggest issue between India and Pakistan has given rise to a host of irritants. Once this question is settled a lot of irritants would automatically be removed and a congenial atmosphere would be built for the resolution of the remaining problems. Notwithstanding this rational approach, Pakistan has always been willing to, and President Leghari made it amply clear to his Indian interlocutors that Pakistan desired a dialogue in totality.

India-Pakistan talks should cover all outstanding questions. A discussion over Kashmir and other issues could be held simultaneously, but negotiations on Kashmir must not be deferred in favor of other questions of lesser importance. India must come to terms with the facts of life. As stressed by President Leghari in New Delhi, it just cannot achieve a military victory in Kashmir. Also, the freedom struggle of the Kashmiris that has gained unprecedented momentum during the last five years will not allow the continuation of the status quo any longer. India must sit down at the negotiation table with Pakistan before it gets too late.

Sri Lanka

Rebel Leader Vows To Teach 'Lesson' to U.S.

BK0805150595 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 5 May 95 p 14

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, May 4 (IANS) — In what is seen as an attempt to whip up war hysteria, LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] leader Velupillai Prabhakaran warned that his organisation was ready to teach the "lesson taught to the Indian Army" to any other foreign force which tries to defeat the Tigers in Sri Lanka.

A recorded message, broadcast over the Voice of Tigers, the clandestine radio of the LTTE, quoted Prabhakaran as saying yesterday that Sri Lanka was likely to bring the US army this time (in its war against the LTTE) and added that "we will teach the Americans a lesson too."

He said that in 1987 the LTTE could defeat the Indian Army, which was the second largest Army in the world, and now the movement was much stronger and capable of defeating any other army in the world.

Describing any invitation to a foreign army as a highest disgrace for a country, the LTTE supremo added that a Government which admits its weakness by inviting foreign armies will never be able to solve the problems of the Tamil people.

He recalled that former President J.R. Jayewardene could not defeat the LTTE even after inviting 70,000 strong Indian Peace-Keeping Forces (IPKF) in 1987.

The IPKF was deployed under the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement of 1987. Its signatory, then Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, was killed allegedly by the

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LTTE in November 1991 after the withdrawal of the IPKF on orders from President Ranasinghe Premadasa in 1990.

Mr Premadasa was also killed in an explosion allegedly triggered by the LTTE in 1993. The LTTE leader's tough statement came as reports were pouring in about possible foreign assistance to Sri Lanka to fight the rebels who killed over 160 security personnel and destroyed two planes and two gunboats between April 19 and 29.

The two planes were brought down by missile fire and this was the first time that the LTTE had used missiles posing a serious threat to Sri Lankan Air Force which was the only arm of the security forces with an advantage over the rebels.

Government Seeking Foreign Aid To Combat Rebels

BK0805132195 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 8 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sri Lanka is increasing the banking on foreign aid to combat Tamil Tiger rebels who dramatically escalated their separatist war with the successful use of antiaircraft missiles, defense sources said. The government of beleaguered President Chandrika Kumaratunga has sounded at several countries including neighboring India for possible assistance to fight the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, the LTTE, the sources said. There has been no direct response yet from anyone except public denial from the Indian Government.

However, Asian diplomats in Colombo said they could not rule out the possibility of giving India some equipment to the Sri Lankan military. [sentence as heard] In New Delhi, Indian Foreign Minister Pranab Mukherjee has said Sri Lanka had not asked them for military help when Mrs. Kumaratunga had a one-to-one meeting with the prime minister, P.V. Narasimha Rao, during the South Asian meet there last week. However, defense analysts in Colombo said that India's premier remarked later on about the LTTE acquiring SAM [surface-to-air missile] was a positive signal that New Delhi had not closed the door to helping Sri Lanka.

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